



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الراي.

Videotape of Waite said in offing

BEIRUT (R) — A privately-owned domestic news agency reported Wednesday that a videotaped interview with British hostage Terry Waite will be released within the next few days. The International News Agency, which is close to Shiite Muslim religious leaders, quoted unidentified sources in its report. "In the next few days, an interview with British hostage Terry Waite, similar to the interview with (U.S. hostage) Terry Anderson, will be broadcast," the agency said. On Sunday, a videotape of Mr. Anderson in which he said his captors have told him they would soon have "very good news" for him, was delivered to a producer of U.S. Cable News Network (CNN) in Damascus. CNN was offered the tape, and told it was made Sunday, by the Lebanese production company Al Mashreq. The producer of the station, Ghaleb Kandil, said he was contacted by an anonymous person saying he should call CNN to prepare a list of questions for the Anderson interview. The tape was delivered several hours later. Telephone call to Al Mashreq went unanswered Wednesday and the news agency's report could not be independently verified. The agency has rarely reported on the hostages in the past.

Volume 16 Number 4824

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10-11, 1991, RABIE' AL AKHEREH 2-3, 1412

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

PLO leaders head for Moscow talks

TUNIS (R) — Three senior leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) left Tunis for Moscow on Wednesday for talks on the Middle East peace conference proposed for later this month. PLO sources named the delegation members as Mahmoud Abbas, Yasser Arafat and Suleiman al-Najjar, all members of the organisation's Executive Committee.

Rockets hit Israel's 'security zone'

MARIYOUN, Lebanon (R) — Guerrillas fired four Katyusha rockets into an Israeli-held South Lebanon village on Wednesday and Israeli planes staged mock raids on Sidon, security sources said. The missiles slammed harmlessly into the village of Debel, five kilometres north of Israel and inside its 15-kilometre deep self-proclaimed "security zone" in Lebanon. The Soviet-made rockets were launched from the village of Haddata, on the tip of the zone and controlled by Hizbollah (Party of God) guerrillas. Few hours later, Israeli planes staged mock raids east of the port of Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut, and over its two Palestinian refugee camps. A bomb wounded three Israeli-backed militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) Tuesday. The blast prompted Israeli and SLA retaliatory shelling of several villages outside the buffer zone.

Israel, Yugoslavia resume formal ties

BELGRADE (AP) — Israel and Yugoslavia have agreed to resume diplomatic relations broken off since 1967, the Yugoslav Foreign Ministry announced Wednesday. The Israeli government on Tuesday "responded positively" to a Yugoslav note on the resumption of ties, said a brief statement carried by Tanjug news agency. Diplomatic relations were cut by the late Yugoslav president, Josip Broz Tito, in the aftermath of the 1967 war. Since Mr. Tito's death in 1980, there have been repeated calls in Yugoslavia for the reestablishment of relations. But federal authorities have said this was not possible while Yugoslavia remained a member of the Non-Aligned Movement, an organisation to which all Arab countries belong. Yugoslavia relinquished that role in Indonesia last month.

Ghozali in Tunis

TUNIS (R) — Algerian Prime Minister Sidahmed Ghozali arrived unexpectedly in Tunis Wednesday for talks with his Tunisian colleague Hamed Karoui. Tunisia has expressed irritation with the activities of Tunisian Muslim fundamentalists living in Algeria. Members of the Al Nahda movement are accused of plotting to overthrow the Tunisian government. Mr. Ghozali arrived after Tunisian Interior Minister Abdullah Kellal visited Algeria last week.

Schwarzkopf gets army bodyguards

WASHINGTON (R) — General Norman Schwarzkopf, the retired leader of U.S. and allied forces during the Gulf war, has been assigned army bodyguards because of "radical groups desiring to do him harm," the army said Wednesday. "Because of the world and the society in which we live it has been determined prudent to provide temporary security for General Schwarzkopf," the army said in a statement. The statement did not specify how many bodyguards would be assigned to Gen. Schwarzkopf or how long they would serve.

Qadhafi in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi arrived in Cairo for talks with President Hosni Mubarak on Middle East peace moves, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday. Officials said Colonel Qadhafi would also attend the wedding of Mr. Mubarak's eldest son Alaa Thursday. The Foreign Ministry added that Syrian President Hafez Assad would visit Cairo Saturday.

Peace should not be based on might or weakness — King

AMMAN (J.T.) — Peace based on the strength and weakness of the parties involved will not last and the aspiration for peace should be comprehensive, just, durable and acceptable to the future generations, His Majesty King Hussein said. "We are seeking to regain the rights of the Palestinian people and the other Arab countries' rights, which mean a return of all territories occupied in the 1967 war," said the King in an interview published Wednesday in Sanaa by the English-language weekly Yemen Times. "We had hoped that the Palestinians would be able to represent themselves separately by themselves at the coming peace conference with all our support, but in order to overcome difficulties we had offered the idea of an umbrella in which a Jordanian delegation and a Palestinian delegation be elected by the Jordanians and the Palestinians respectively before entering into one delegation," King Hussein said in the interview conducted by Yemen Times chief editor Abdul Aziz Al Saqqaf, who is also advisor to President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Following the opening ceremony, the peace conference will set up bilateral committees to hold negotiations with the purpose of reaching a common ground for all parties within the United Nations framework, King Hussein said. Jordan is now involved in arrangements for the conference, and "we hope to leave behind us the present confused state and enter a stage whereby every one respects the other and to live the kind of life agreed on in the spirit and substance of the National Charter," the King said. King Hussein told the Yemeni weekly that he would soon address the Jordanian people in a nationwide speech about the developments in the region. "We have faced very severe circumstances that have deprived us of the opportunity of pursuing the implementation of the National Charter and inspired political pluralism that should be translated into new realities for life allowing all people to freely express their views," he said. "Indeed, we were overtaken by the developments in the region and could not implement our own programme," he said.

The King said that his planned speech offers him the chance to directly address the people with regard to the requirements of the present stage. In his interview the King stressed that Jordan was still striving in an "astounding manner to deal with the numerous hardships." Noting that Israel was demanding \$10 billion in loans to cope with the housing requirements of 300,000 Jewish immigrants, he pointed out that Jordan, during the past year alone, received an influx of 300,000 returnees from the Gulf. The \$10 billion sum requested by Israel far exceeds Jordan's total debt accumulated as a result of Jordan's shouldering of the burden of confronting Israel, the King said. He said the debts were to have been settled through Arab financial assistance to Jordan in implementation of the Baghdad summit resolutions, but Jordan did not receive that assistance agreed on "despite the fact that it is Jordan which has been bearing the brunt of all the consequences resulting from the occupation of Palestine."

King Hussein said that Israel had been continually supported and given aid when Jordan did not receive anything that is near to what Israel was getting. "We believe that we have the right to demand help from our Arab brothers so that we can honour our responsibilities and carry out our duties," the King said. Only Saudi Arabia has honoured its financial commitment to Jordan in implementation of the Baghdad resolutions and the aid came when Jordan was facing very difficult circumstances, King Hussein added. The creation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was instrumental in saving this part of the Arab land from occupation, King Hussein said. The Kingdom, he said, has since its creation, faced one setback after another and was directly affected by the tragedies befalling the Palestinian people. "The road was never easy for the Jordanian people who stand firm along the longest confrontation line with the Israeli enemy and we cannot afford to see this Arab country fall under the heavy burdens far bigger than it can shoulder by itself," he said. The King said that despite the difficult circumstances Jordan remains committed to the democratic march and keen on making it a success. Jordan is seeking to crystallise an experiment that could serve as a model for the Arab World, he added. The King said that the media should back the positive trend towards democracy in the Arab World. Jordanian-Yemeni relations, the King said, were on a high level.

Settlers, supported by Knesset members, seize Jerusalem homes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Dozens of Jewish settlers backed by right-wing legislators moved into at least eight homes in an Arab neighbourhood in the heart of Jerusalem before dawn Wednesday to begin a 26-hour takeover. Police began evacuating the settlers several hours later from homes in the neighbourhood of Silwan, arguing that their presence in the Arab district was disruptive and endangered public order. Just after noon, Police Minister Ram Millo said an agreement was reached with government officials to have the settlers and legislators remain in one house until a legal opinion could be obtained on the legality of the seizure. The agreement was reached after the settlers and legislators Goula Cohen and Elyakim Hazani of the right-wing Tehiya party ignored a police deadline for them to leave the houses they still occupied at midnight. The settlers, members of the Ateret Cohanim movement, claimed they had received permission from the government to enter the homes, Israel Radio said. The settlers said the houses either were abandoned or bought by Ateret Cohanim.

However, Mr. Millo said he did not think the group had government backing. "It seems strange that in order to enter privately owned homes in Jerusalem, you have to come in the dead of night," he added. There was confusion over how many houses the settlers seized. Police initially said they took over all 26, but later reports said they moved into only eight, though they may have entered more of the houses. Israel Radio reported that the settlers began moving in at midnight Tuesday which dozens of other Ateret Cohanim supporters, mattresses, cooking stoves and food arrived in Silwan. Silwan is just outside the walls of the Old City and only a few hundred metres from Haram Al Sharif. Jamil Ahmad Abasi, who lives in one of the houses seized by settlers, arrived at midnight with his wife and five children and told police the home belonged to his family. Mr. Abasi, 45, said that six months ago, a government department in charge of property held by absentee owners sent him a notice that he must leave. Mr. Abasi said he challenged the order in court, and that a hearing was scheduled Oct. 20. "This is my house, not anybody else's," shouted Mr. Abasi, waving the house keys. Mr. Abasi said the family had been away overnight to attend a wedding. The settlers agreed to leave his house under the compromise for them to remain in one other.

"We are going to continue to stay here until the day we see legal," Mr. Cohen, a deputy welfare minister, told reporters. "The four members of parliament will stay here until we are convinced we are endangering the security of the state," she said. Ms. Cohen and two other members of the group are members of the far-right Tehiya Party, part of the ruling coalition. The fourth belongs to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Party. Israel Radio said the settlers had moved into the homes with the approval of hardline Housing Minister Ariel Sharon who is responsible for implementing Israel's controversial settlement policies. Mr. Sharon refused to say Wednesday if he had authorised the takeover but declared: "It is the right of Jews to be in any place in united Jerusalem as in any other place in the land of Israel."

Government bans Islamic movement's rally

By Salameh Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prime Minister Taher Masi's government, widely criticised for being "soft" on dealing with parliamentary opposition, Wednesday toughened its stand against attempts by the Islamic movement to weaken its resolve to participate in the proposed Middle East peace process. Official sources said the government decided to ban a public rally for the Islamic movement planned to organise Friday, a day after His Majesty King Hussein was scheduled to deliver a major speech to a national congress on the importance of Jordan's participation in the peace process. (The national congress was postponed until Saturday due to a minor health problem the King suffered yesterday). The government also banned the distribution of Al Ribat, a weekly newspaper, of the movement which opposes Arab-Israeli peace talks. A cabinet minister warned the Islamic movement against entering "a losing battle" with the government saying there would be "no wavering on the government's commitment to safeguarding the rule of law and protecting higher national interests." The government used its prerogative not to license the public rally (Continued on page 2)



King down with cold; national congress delayed

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein is suffering from a cold which has affected his throat and has been advised by doctors to take rest, a Royal Palace spokesman said Wednesday. "His Majesty has a cold, which has affected his throat and he is resting," the spokesman told the Jordan Times. A Royal Court statement carried by Jordan Television said the King was advised by his doctors to remain in bed for some time. The statement wished the King a speedy recovery and also announced that a national congress scheduled for Thursday has been postponed until Saturday. The King is not well enough to deliver a 90-minute speech at the congress, the spokesman said. In the national congress meeting, to be held at the Palace of Culture, the King is expected to deliver a nation-wide address dealing with matters related to the Middle East peace process and the general framework of the proposed peace conference.

The national congress is expected to be attended by prominent personalities and representatives of all walks of life in Jordan. King Hussein will review events and developments related to the current political stage and Jordan's endeavours over the past quarter of a century to find a just and durable solution to the Palestine problem as well as developments in the Arab countries' positions with regard to peace with Israel since 1967. Those attending will include Parliament members, heads of unions and representatives of various public sectors.

Government-Constitution Bloc standoff may be easing; reconciliation possible

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The standoff between Prime Minister Taher Masi's government and the mainstream 18-member Constitution Bloc that reached a climax Monday seems to be easing off, opening the door for a possible reconciliation in the next several days, according to deputies and officials. "While the prime minister's reply to the Constitution Bloc's charges against him was very tough, and the government's response to the call by the 30 deputies was even tougher, they both left the door open for a reconciliation between the two parties," said a cabinet official. His view was shared by several Constitution Bloc deputies, who described a meeting their group had on Tuesday evening as an important step towards patching up differences with the government. Those deputies said their bloc did not rule out a reconciliation effort either by the leader of the bloc, Thounqun Hindawi, or through third parties although there remained traces of "bitter pride" among most of its members caused by their exclusion from the recent cabinet reshuffle and Mr. Masi's counter attacks against them. The mood that permeated the atmosphere Wednesday was one of "wait and see" as both sides wanted to sit it out until after the national congress, that was scheduled for today, to make a move towards the other. This was true especially on the bloc's side, who had decided in their Tuesday meeting that unless the government escalated its attack on the group, the 18 deputies would refrain from further escalating tension and start being more receptive towards reconciliation efforts. In fact there were unconfirmed reports yesterday that Mr. Hindawi, among other leaders of parliamentary groups, including the Muslim Brotherhood, went to see the prime minister Wednesday, but reached no agreements with him. The atmosphere was described as "tense" but not "hopeless," according to the reports. "The prime minister is not ready to strike an instant reconciliation with Mr. Hindawi," one cabinet official had earlier said. "Mr. Masi wants time to reflect on what had happened, on why Mr. Hindawi had gone to the extent he did in opposing the government and on whether a new relationship with the bloc could still be built around new laws and a more solid understanding of the prime minister's mission and policies," the cabinet official said. Officials had said earlier this week that there was "more than meets the eye" in the angry reaction of the Constitution Bloc towards the limited Oct. 3 reshuffle. (Continued on page 2)

Israel brushes aside U.S. concern over Iraq flights

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The White House said Wednesday it protested against Israel's flights over Iraq because it feared they could disrupt the U.S. effort to arrange a Middle East peace conference.

"We do believe that the peace process is important... and that actions (should) not be taken that would disrupt the peace process," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters. "That is why we have made our concern about the Israeli overflights clear to the Israeli government at the highest level as soon as we learned of them," he said. Iraq said in a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Tuesday that four Israeli F-15 fighters, coming from the direction of Syria, flew over Iraqi territory for 30 minutes last Friday before entering Saudi air space. Secretary of State James Baker leaves on Saturday for his eighth visit to the Middle East and will try to clear final hurdles to a peace conference at the end of the month that would include Israel, its Arab neighbours and Palestinians. U.S. officials have voiced concern that a military clash now between Israel and Iraq could undermine Baker's trip. "I simply point out that we are in the final stages of getting a peace conference, which is very important to all the countries in the region, and there are a number of issues that can be considered disruptive in getting the countries together," Mr. Fitzwater said. He said there was no need for Israeli surveillance flights over Iraq because the United States had been sharing intelligence on Iraq with the Israelis. "We understand that Israel has concerns about their security and safety that has caused this situation to develop. But we provide Israel with information about the Iraqi threat information that we get from our own sources as well as other sources," Mr. Fitzwater said. He said the U.S. government was also giving Israel information about the process of destruction of the nuclear, biological and chemical weapons facilities in Iraq by U.N. inspection teams. He called for restraint among all countries in the region that have engaged in hostilities. "I think it's clear that as we consider the peace process, that an attempt in many cases to settle animosities that have been there between countries for decades... would not make that (peace) process easier," he said. Israel brushed aside the U.S. complaint about Israeli jets flying over Iraq, saying on Wednesday that the Jewish state would continue to protect its "security" as it saw fit. "I cannot say anything more than the determination that is known to all of us... our security system will do what is necessary for the defence of the state of Israel," Yossi Ben Aharon told army radio that day. Mr. Ben Aharon said he hoped the United States would continue to accept Israel would act to protect its "security." "Despite protests?" "In spite of (them)," Mr. Ben Aharon said. Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens later told American Jewish fundraisers that Israel was disappointed with the United States for protesting against the overflights. "I think probably many in Israel were disappointed to see that the United States seemed to be adding its voice to this kind of protest because it must be clear that the government of Israel is obligated to do everything necessary to provide for protection and defence of the state of Israel," Mr. Arens said. "And Israel will continue to do what it has done in the past, it will take the measures necessary so that it can exercise its legitimate right of self-defence, and it is important that

Pankin hopes for October conference

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin said Wednesday he was planning a trip to the Middle East before October 23 to discuss a planned peace conference. Mr. Pankin said he is scheduled to visit Israel, Jordan and Syria ahead of the conference, which he said he hoped would begin at the end of October. "U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is going to the Middle East... all this work is devoted to making a peace conference possible," Mr. Pankin told a news conference. "We still hope it will take place at the very end of this month. Each country has conditions and this is what is being discussed now." Mr. Pankin also said he had discussed the idea with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy of the Soviet Union recognising his country "on the eve" of the start of the long-awaited peace conference. The Soviet Union cut relations with Israel following the 1967 war. Mr. Pankin told the news conference that he would possibly travel to other as yet unspecified countries, but that he was under pressure to keep the trip short in order to be able to attend a conference on Cambodia that starts in Paris on Oct. 23. The goal of the trip is to lay the final groundwork for the peace conference that is to be co-chaired by the Soviet Union and the United States. It would be Mr. Pankin's first visit to the region.

U.N. says ceasefire holding in north Iraq

GENEVA (Agencies) — A ceasefire has been agreed between Kurdish rebels and Iraqi soldiers in northern Iraq, the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said Wednesday. A UNHCR spokesman said Iraqi and Kurdish forces agreed to a ceasefire signed a truce accord at 4 p.m. (1300 GMT) Tuesday and it came into force an hour later in the region, scope of bloody clashes in the past week. "Apparently the dissemination of the news of the ceasefire took some time, which is why shelling was still heard after 5 p.m.," spokesman Manouel de Almeida said. "Our reports are that it was quiet this morning." Mr. de Almeida said officials at Suleimaniyah hospital had confirmed 45 civilian deaths from the clashes, which began on Saturday in Kifri, 160 kilometres south of Suleimaniyah. About 600 people had been wounded, 100 of them seriously, he added. The fighting spread to nearby Kalar Sunday and intensified Monday with reports of Iraqi troops shelling the town of Arbat. The main highway between Suleimaniyah, the last major centre to fall after the collapse of a post-Gulf war rebellion against the government, and the rebel stronghold of Seyed Saadi was cut. The UNHCR spokesman said the ceasefire agreement called for troops to be withdrawn to "reasonable locations" and for all prisoners and captured weapons to be returned Wednesday. He said the three parties also gave assurances UNHCR trucks carrying

Palestinian envoys head for talks with Baker

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Three key Palestinian negotiators left for Washington Wednesday to meet U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and sort out the last details of Palestinian participation in a Middle East peace conference.

Palestinian sources said the negotiators — Faisal Al Husseini, Hassan Ashrawi and Zakaria Al Agha — flew to Washington via London. They have seen Mr. Baker during most of his visits to the Middle East and will be meeting him again just days before he embarks on his eighth regional peace shuttle on Saturday. The shape of the Palestinian delegation to the conference is one of the major remaining obstacles to peace talks. Israel insists the Palestinian delegates must meet its specifications but the Palestinians want better terms than those on offer. The negotiators will explain the Palestinian position to Mr. Baker. They will also seek clarifications and assurances from the secretary of state on U.S. positions on the occupied territories, Jerusalem and Palestinian self-determination. Israel's government has ignored demands by right-wingers that Mr. Hussein and Dr. Ashrawi be arrested for allegedly breaking an Israeli law banning contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Palestinian sources at the Palestine National Council (PNC) said the delegation had closed PNC session in Algiers last month and urged the delegates to support U.S. peace efforts. Israeli police interrogated the two Palestinians for more than an hour Tuesday, but Police Minister Ronni

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Iraq said working on hydrogen weapon as well as atomic bomb

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iraq has been working on producing a hydrogen or thermonuclear weapon more destructive than an atomic bomb, senior officials of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said Tuesday.

Hans Blix, director-general of the Vienna-based agency, and David Kay, American leader of a nuclear inspection team which returned recently from Baghdad, made the disclosure at a news conference after a private briefing for Security Council members.

Referring to documents brought back by Mr. Kay's team, Mr. Blix said: "One of these... shows that a programme was under way to produce lithium-6, a substance that has only one use, namely use in thermonuclear weapons."

Hydrogen bombs are more powerful versions of the atomic bombs dropped by the United States against the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. No hydrogen bomb has ever been used in warfare.

U.N. officials charged with finding and destroying Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction have previously given extensive details of Iraqi plans to produce atomic weapons. But this appeared to be their first reference to evidence of a thermonuclear programme.

Asked whether Iraq had actually produced any lithium-6, Mr. Blix said: "The impression is that they had produced some, but what quantities we do not know."

He added: "All they talk about (in the documents) is their effort to produce kilogramme quantities of it, many kilogrammes."

No lithium-6 had so far been found.

Mr. Kay said that, on previous inspection missions, the Iraqis had denied having done any work

at all on lithium-6. Both men said the Iraqi programme "spoke of an ambition to produce 100 kilogrammes a year," but neither would say how much of the material was needed to make a hydrogen weapon.

Mr. Kay's 44-member team was detained for four days in a Baghdad car park after refusing to surrender documents dealing with Iraq's clandestine nuclear weapons programme.

The inspectors were eventually released after agreeing to give the Iraqi authorities an inventory of the data they had confiscated.

Personnel records show that Iraqi nuclear scientists were educated and trained in the United States, Britain, France, Poland and West Germany, Mr. Blix said.

Documents seized by Mr. Kay's team also showed that many countries and companies had provided Iraq with technology and training for its nuclear programme, he added.

However, he said most supplies were dual-use materials that did not necessarily indicate the vendor knew it was helping Iraq develop nuclear weapons.

Mr. Kay said that the Iraqis had failed to return about 45,000 pages of the most sensitive documents that the team seized on its first raid on Sept. 23, but lost custody of for about seven hours after Iraqi guards forcibly took the material back.

When the documents were returned, Mr. Kay said, many of the most sensitive volumes — identified by the red spine on their binders — were missing.

However, "we had photographed the cover pages of the documents," Mr. Kay said, and the IAEA is preparing a roster of the missing documents.

These documents mostly con-

tain progress reports on the Iraqi nuclear weapons programme, he said.

Earlier Tuesday, U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said it may be necessary to monitor Iraq's nuclear programme indefinitely.

When asked by a reporter whether that would be required in light of Iraq's efforts to conceal its weapons development project within its civilian nuclear energy programme, the U.N. chief replied:

"That is a possibility, unfortunately."

Mr. Blix held the news conference after meeting with the Sanctions Committee of the Security Council to discuss long-term monitoring of Iraq's nuclear programme.

The committee did not take any action Tuesday. Western diplomats said the Security Council was expected to meet soon to consider ways to monitor Iraq's non-conventional weapons programme over the long-term.

Mr. Blix reportedly favours a ban on all Iraqi nuclear research except into the use of isotopes for medical, industrial and geological applications.

A confidential report from Mr. Blix to Mr. Perez de Cuellar said Iraq planned to design and produce a nuclear weapon at a research centre in Al Atheer, about 165 kilometres south of Baghdad.

The research centre — described in the report as the hub of Iraq's secret \$10 billion nuclear programme — was only lightly bombed during the Gulf war. Western intelligence agencies apparently had failed before the war to determine the centre's significance, which was only learned through the documents seized by the U.N. nuclear inspectors last month.

Iraq says shortage of cobalt delays cancer therapy

NICOSIA (AP) — A shortage of radioactive cobalt, which has virtually no military use, has delayed treatment of 500 cancer patients in Iraq, a Baghdad newspaper reported Wednesday.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) monitored in Cyprus, quoted the Al Jumhuriya daily as saying the nuclear medicine hospital in Baghdad also was short of spare parts for radiotherapy equipment.

Although medical supplies are exempted from the embargo imposed on Iraq by the United Nations, sensitive supplies such as radioactive materials have been provided.

The newspaper quoted sources at the Iraqi Cancer Committee as saying the lack of radioactive cobalt delayed treatment for 500 patients.

The substance if an isotope used almost exclusively for medical purposes, said Terry Gander of Jane's Defence Weekly in London.

Its only military use is when large quantities of cobalt are placed around a nuclear bomb, turning it into a "dirty" weapon meaning that it produces greater quantities of radioactive fallout.

But Mr. Gander said the amounts required for this would be much larger than any quantity that might be supplied for treating cancer patients.

Iraq also has reported shortages of other medical supplies and says hundreds of people have died as a result.

Fate of Israeli pilot obstacle to hostage deal

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The fate of an Israeli pilot missing in Lebanon is the main stumbling block to settlement of the Middle East hostage crisis but Muslim fundamentalists have no idea of his whereabouts, a senior pro-Iranian leader said on Wednesday.

"The fate and whereabouts of (Israeli pilot) Ron Arad are still shrouded in mystery. Apparently he is not in the hands of (pro-Iranian) Muslim activists. We don't know where he is," the leader said.

"Things are moving in the right direction, things are progressing," said the leader who spoke to Reuters on condition he was not identified.

"One of the main stumbling blocks facing completing the swap is the fate of Ron Arad," he said. "Breakthroughs can be expected but closing this file totally depends on how much Israel is willing to bypass the issue of its pilot."

Arad, a navigator whose plane was shot down in South Lebanon in 1986, is the only one of six Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon known beyond doubt to have survived capture.

Israel wants confirmed information on the fate of its servicemen before freeing more than 300 Arab prisoners, a key demand for the pro-Iranian captors of up to nine Western hostages. Diplomats in Beirut have said obtaining word for Israel on Arad's fate was a possible hitch to ending the seven-year hostage saga as no group or state had confirmed holding him.

The leader said giving Israel information on the fate of the remaining soldiers, whom he believed to be all dead, was not a

problem.

"But Israel will have to pay for the information and I think it will, eventually."

Israel freed 51 Arab prisoners and handed over the remains of nine guerrillas last month after saying it received word that one of its soldiers, captured by the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God), was dead.

Hizbollah, believed to be an umbrella for the kidnapers of Westerners, also holds another Israeli soldier, Yossi Fink, or his remains but has so far refuse to give any word on his fate.

Another pro-Iranian source said last month that officials of the "Faithful Resistance," a guerrilla faction which captured Arad, had offered to give information on his whereabouts if Israel freed Hizbollah cleric Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid and one of its leaders, Jawad Kasfi.

The Faithful Resistance was part of the pro-Syrian Shiite Amal movement but most of its leaders and guerrillas later defected to Hizbollah. One of its leaders, Mustapha Al Dirani, maintains close links to Iran as well as to Syria. A Muslim source said there was a possibility that Mr. Dirani had handed Arad to the Syrians.

Hopes for the release of more Western hostages rose earlier this week when the longest-held American captive Terry Anderson said in a videotaped interview organised by his captors he had been told to expect "very good news soon."

Iran's ambassador to Germany, Seyyed Hossein Mousavian, said Tuesday Tehran was working actively for a swap of the hostages for Arab detainees held by Israel.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq faces expulsion from environment group

DUBAI (R) — Iraq faces expulsion from a Gulf Arab environmental safety group because it has not paid its membership dues, an official said Wednesday. "They are in default in dues," a senior official of the 10-member Gulf Area Oil Companies Mutual Aid Organisation (GAOCMAO) said. "Unless they pay their dues their membership will automatically be dropped." Iraq was until March last year the chairman of GAOCMAO, a post which rotates annually. GAOCMAO officials said there had been no correspondence with Baghdad since the Gulf crisis started in August last year with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The organisation was formed in 1970s to exchange information and boost cooperation among oil companies in the area on environment and pollution issues. The group will hold its third executive committee meeting of 1991 in Dubai on Oct. 21. Dubai Petroleum Company is the current chairman of the organisation. A two-day conference organised by GAOCMAO in Dubai to discuss "current environmental issues in the Gulf" will be held on Oct. 22-23, GAOCMAO officials said.

Kuwait considers more U.S. combat planes

ST. LOUIS, Missouri (R) — The government of Kuwait is considering the purchase of 35 more FA-18 Hornet fighter planes, McDonnell Douglas Corporation and Kuwaiti officials said. At ceremonies marking the delivery of the first 40 FA-18s Kuwait ordered before Iraq's invasion in August last year, McDonnell President John Capellupo said the company had given information to the U.S. navy on 35 additional planes for Kuwait. The plane was delivered to Sheikh Saud Nasir Al Sabah, Kuwait's ambassador to the U.S., and to Kuwait's air force chief Brigadier Dawoud Al Ghanim, at McDonnell's St. Louis plant. "We're looking into it," Sheikh Sabah said of the possible purchase of the additional jets. "We do intend to look further for more aircraft." Sheikh Sabah declined to talk specifically about the number of FA-18s Kuwait was interested in, but said more planes were needed for a strong air force and national defence.

13 Soviet ships stranded at Suez Canal

CAIRO (R) — Thirteen Soviet merchant vessels are stranded outside the Suez Canal because their companies have not sent money transfers to pay the transit tolls, a canal official said Tuesday. The vessels arrived over the weekend and are docked at the northern approaches to the canal, Nabil Hilali, head of the canal's transit department, said by telephone. Fifteen other Soviet vessels had arrived since Sept. 29 went through the canal Tuesday after their agents paid the transit fees, he added. "It is not unusual for ships to wait for money transfers but this is the first time such a large number of Soviet ships are involved," Mr. Hilali said. The head of the association of Soviet shipowners, Viktor Filipenko, said in an article in Moscow last July that the country's merchant fleet was on the brink of collapse through lack of government support.

Ben Ali rejects death sentence appeals

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia's president has rejected appeals against the death sentences imposed on five people, including three Muslim fundamentalists, the Justice Ministry said Wednesday. The three fundamentalists were convicted of murdering a guard at the offices of the ruling Democratic Constitutional Union when they attacked its premises in the Bab Souika suburb of Tunis last February. The three, Mohammed Nidawi, Mohammed Zribi and Mustapha Ben Hassine Chaabane, also wounded three other people, one of whom is still in a serious condition. The Justice Ministry statement said President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali had rejected the appeals for pardons "because of the particularly odious nature of the crimes." The ministry also said the president had also rejected appeals from two other men on death row who were convicted of raping and killing two children.

New election announced in Mauritania

NOUAKCHOTT (AP) — The military government has announced a new law for Mauritania's first multi-party elections in 31 years, one that favours it and fuels opposition charges the soldiers have no intention of surrendering power. The new law requires all contestants to support their candidacies with signatures from 30 mayors or 40 municipal councillors. All of them were chosen under the one-party system and are supporters of military ruler Maouiya Ould Sid's Ahmad Taya, except for a handful who have joined opposition parties. Colonel Ould Taya recently legalised opposition parties under a programme to return democracy. No date for elections has been set. Opponents say the promise of democracy is a sham to improve Col. Ould Taya's image abroad after years of repressive and corrupt rule punctuated by purges of a subjugated black minority. He promised democracy when he took power in a bloodless palace coup in 1984.

Prosecutor wants Achille Lauro extradition

ATHENS (AP) — A prosecutor Tuesday urged the supreme court to uphold a decision to extradite Abdul Rahman Khaled to Italy where faces life in prison for helping to plan the hijacking of the Achille Lauro. Mr. Khaled is absenting a May 28 ruling, claiming he is not the man tried in absentia by an Italian court. An American passenger was killed during the hijack, staged by members of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) in 1985. Mr. Khaled, 56, said that he came to Greece for eye tests. He was arrested with three Greeks in an Athens apartment in March, along with a quantity of explosives. Prosecutor Dimitris Tsevas proposed that the criminal division of the supreme court dismiss Mr. Khaled's claim. "The large number of passports found in his possession and an examination of the evidence in the case proves that he is the person who is wanted" in Italy, the semi-official Athens news agency quoted him as saying. Mr. Khaled was tried in absentia and convicted in 1986 of using a false passport to board the ship. He was sentenced to seven years and six months in prison. However, in 1987 an Italian appeals court ruled Mr. Khaled was one of the men who planned the hijacking. It raised his sentence to life in prison. The Greek court adjourned to deliberate and said that it will notify Mr. Khaled's lawyers when it is ready to announce its finding. Court sources said this could be in two weeks.

Former White House staffer criticises U.S. arms sales to Israel and Arabs

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former White House staffer criticised the Bush administration Tuesday for approving major arms sales to Israel and Saudi Arabia and called for curbs on Israel's nuclear programme.

Geoffrey Kemp, who ran the Middle East section of the National Security Council under President Ronald Reagan, said the administration should open talks with Israel about its programme even while trying to arrange a Middle East peace conference.

"The Arabs will insist on it," Mr. Kemp said in an interview. "It's neither in America or Israel's interest to talk about doing away with the programme. But it is time to discuss putting limits on it so it's not perceived to be open-ended."

Mr. Kemp, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, is the author of a new book, *The Control of the Middle East Arms Race*.

"The past record on regional arms control is not good," he

wrote, "but new circumstances in the international environment provide a unique opportunity to explore more far-reaching policies."

Among his recommendations are constraints on weapons purchases by Arab states so Israel would be more secure in relinquishing territory in exchange for peace with its neighbours.

President George Bush in May proposed a freeze and an eventual ban on the purchase, production and testing of surface-to-surface missiles and an effort by key suppliers to Middle East countries to identify the most dangerous weapons in the region and curb their sales.

Since then, however, the administration has approved the purchase of F-15 jet fighters by Israel and Saudi Arabia, armed helicopters by the United Arab Emirates and additional military aid to Egypt.

China, meanwhile, has delivered new missiles to Syria.

Mr. Kemp said Mr. Bush had

not reconciled the administration's arms sales and arms control policies. "The administration has been very inarticulate," he said. "There have been arms sales to Israel and friends who support us in the war (with Iraq)."

In the book, Mr. Kemp said Mr. Bush's proposal for arms constraints is sensible, but says it continues to be faulted for inconsistency, obfuscation and occasional hypocrisy.

He added: "The administration and Congress share responsibility for these shortfalls. The persistent criticisms concern a seeming illogic of a policy that calls for arms control while simultaneously allowing for continued sale of advanced weapons to friends in the region and maintaining silence in both branches of government concerning Israel's nuclear programme."

Israel has never acknowledged having a nuclear weapons programme but various officials have said it would not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons in the region.

Reconciliation seen possible

(Continued from page 1)

forces in the country, but when the bloc decided to press the government further by publicly withdrawing its confidence, the premier and his cabinet had no choice but to fire back with the two communiques on Monday and Tuesday, which threatened to escalate into an open and vicious confrontation by parliament recess' end in December.

"Following the reckless behaviour of the anti-Masri establishment figures and the conspiracy of the Islamists in their efforts to discredit his government, the prime minister was ready for a confrontation, even if that meant a major political crisis," one official asserted.

"It has been indeed regrettable and painful that a parliamentary bloc that we respect should resort to this kind of conduct and issue a rash and unjust campaign against the government," Mr. Masri had said in his Monday reply.

Both sides, however, agree that the conflict has no ideological or logical basis. Some leaders of the Constitution Bloc say that

the conflict may have gone too far and should be curbed before it got out of hand.

There are no political differences between the government and the bloc and whatever differences remain can be solved and they have to be solved. There are cool-headed people on both sides, "one of the leaders of the bloc told the Jordan Times.

"Regardless of the differences, we hope that it can be seen that both the government and ourselves want to serve this country the best we can. We are not interested in jeopardising Jordan's internal security."

Bloc members pointed out yesterday to their silence over the government's communiques as indication of their goodwill and intention to contribute to calming down tempers.

For now, those bloc members said, they will participate "prominently" in the national congress meeting on Saturday and follow up with "positive moves" to "warrant His Majesty's message to the nation."

Government bans Islamic rally

(Continued from page 1)

which was timed to come a day after the King's speech to the national congress, the minister said.

"We have a law which says that such meetings need the approval of the interior ministry," the minister said. "The Brotherhood has not obtained this licence and as such they have got to abide by the law," he added.

The Muslim Brotherhood, which dominates the Islamic movement, appeared divided Wednesday over how to react to the government ban, with some movement leaders saying they would go ahead with plans to hold the rally and others saying no decision would be taken until clarifications are received from the government on the reasons behind the ban.

"The government is quite aware of our commitment to adhere to democratic methods of expression," a Brotherhood deputy said. "Our public rally is a democratic method of expressing our opposition to the peace conference, and the government must not assume it would turn violent," he added.

Another Brotherhood leader said the movement was not officially informed of any ban and that it would go ahead with plans to organise the public rally, which he said may attract tens of thousands of people. Official sources said the government was committed to democratic methods of dealing with the opposition. One source explained, however, that "democracy does not mean anarchy." He added that "democracies have teeth to protect higher national interests and the rule of law."

Observers said the government, although generally not opposed to

public rallies organised by the Brotherhood or any other political movement, considered the timing of the rally, one day after the King's previously-scheduled speech, as clearly provocative.

One official source confirmed that the move to ban the rally "does not represent a decision by the government to seek a confrontation with the Brotherhood."

"Our commitment to democratisation is unquestionable," the source said. "But it does not mean we will sit back and watch while some political forces try to undermine our national security and stability in the name of democracy."

He said that the Islamic movement, "which is an international movement, must be aware that Jordan is the last remaining link through which it can breathe. I am convinced that it will not act in such a way that it loses its space."

The official was apparently referring to the crackdown on the Islamic movement throughout most of the Arab World, including Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Syria, Iraq and Egypt as well as in many non-Arab states.

The government's move came following a week of tension with the Muslim Brotherhood which organised a petition calling on the government to resign. The movement accuses the cabinet of succumbing to American-Israeli pressure to enter peace negotiations that are "aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause and selling Palestine and Jerusalem."

The Lower House of Parliament's Constitution Bloc, a grouping of 18 traditionally pro-establishment figures, dismayed over their exclusion from a cabinet reshuffle last week, joined hands with the 23-member Brotherhood last Monday to call for the government's resignation.

King

(Continued from page 1)

King said, are unique and progress all the time, benefiting the two sides through a continued drive to achieve cooperation and integration.

The King voiced his appreciation Yemen's achievements, particularly in fulfilling Yemen's unity.

The King expressed hope that Jordan's relations with the Gulf states would very soon be restored to normal.

"When the facts are known, I

brothers in the Gulf will understand Jordan's keenness on safeguarding the Arab World's national interest be said.

Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

told Al Ahsali. The newspaper is the mouthpiece of the left-leaning Nationalist Unionist Progressive Front. It said Palestinians were interviewed in Jordan.

Mr. Hussein was quoted as saying the Palestinians want a conflict conference, apparently in line with bilateral negotiations.

He said one proposal put to Palestinians would have an operation of the conference, sponsored jointly by the United States and Soviet Union, then a second session.

Even that would be contrary to Shamir's conditions. In a post-speech to the Israeli parliament Monday, he said the conference "entail a one- or two-day ceremony followed by direct negotiations between Israel and each Arab neighbour. It must not reconvene at a later date."

Mr. Shamir said Israel wants to avoid an internationally binding outcome, prefer instead to confine negotiations to bilateral talks. The Palestinians' Arab partners seek an even larger basis for the talks.

"The conference needs to be timely," Mr. Hussein was quoted saying.

There is a suggestion that conference be held one more, after all sides agree. We refuse because it exposes us to an 'in veto'."

Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

An Iraqi newspaper accused I Talabani Wednesday of undermining talks on Kurdish autonomy by talk to the West.

Basel, a newspaper owned by I leader Saddam Hussein's son, said Mr. Talabani had become "representative of the allied Iraq, which had carried out aggression against Iraq."

It accused Mr. Talabani, co-leader of the Kurdistan Front which is negotiating autonomy with Baghdad, "playing the role planned for abroad."

The editorial made no reference to the renewed clashes in northern Iraq. All Iraq's newspapers published government statements that the situation was now under control following talks between Kurdish leaders and the government.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:30 Lola et les Surdoués
19:30 Magry
19:30 News in French
19:15 Cirque
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 News in Arabic
20:30 The Simpsons
21:10 Beyond West world
22:00 News in English
22:30 Movie of the week: "Positive L.D."

PRAYER TIMES

04:14 Fajr
05:31 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:23 Dhuhr
14:41 Asr
17:15 Maghreb
18:31 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 817/90
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 627/85
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624/90
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637/40
De la Salle Church Tel. 661/757
Terrence Church Tel. 622/36
Church of the Annunciation Tel.

623/41
Anglican Church Tel. 623/83, Tel. 625/43
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771/31
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775/261
St. Ephrem Church Tel. 771/751
Assiout International Church Tel. 627/981, 623/26
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811/205
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623/264 and 624/932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675/691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain, especially in the northern parts of Jordan. Winds will be northerly to moderate. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy and winds will be northerly to moderate and sea calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 13 / 24
Aqaba 18 / 31
Dhara 14 / 26
Jordan Valley 17 / 31

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 24, Aqaba 31. Humidity readings:

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 75 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Majed Al Shaer 791/405
Dr. Subhi Tamara 898/003
Dr. Khaled Hakeem 793/522
Dr. Jamil Mawja 761/489
Firas pharmacy 661/912
Fendos pharmacy 778/336
Al Asana pharmacy 637/053
Nabrook pharmacy 623/672
Al Salan pharmacy 636/730
Yarosh pharmacy 644/445
Shreijon pharmacy 637/660

BEIRUT:
Dr. Amin Abu Eida (—)
Al Sarsa pharmacy (983/238)

ZARQA:
Dr. Abed Ghazal (—)

Khalifah pharmacy 983/7

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661/111
Civil Defence Emergency 630/441
Rescue 630/441
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621/111, 637/777
Fire Brigade 891/228
Blood Bank 775/221
Highway Police 843/402
Traffic Police 893/390
Public Security Department 630/321
Hotel Complaints 605/800
Price Complaints 661/176
Water and Sewerage 874/67
Complaints 874/67
Complaints 667/221/9
Telephone Information 121
Overseas Calls 010/230
Central Amman Telephone 623/101
Repairs 623/101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661/101

Jordan Television 773/111

Radio Jordan 774/111
Water Authority 660/100
Jordan Electricity Authority 615/615
Electric Power 636/381
Company 636/381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813/813/322
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642/116
Akhil Maternity, J. Amn 642/116
Jabal Amman Maternity

Symposium on children's TV and radio programmes calls for more educational, recreational shows

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-day symposium on children's programmes on radio and television organised by the National Association for the Education of the Child ended in Amman Wednesday with a set of recommendations designed to upgrade the status of children and to boost their culture.

The symposium mainly focused attention on the radio and television as proper media for promoting the status of children and on providing programmes that would contribute towards children's development.

The symposium, which was organised under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor and held at Mark Arab Child Day,

urged Radio Jordan and television to prepare annual programmes to meet the Jordanian children's requirements of culture and to help develop their talents.

The recommendations stressed the need for directing more attention to the children of the occupied Arab territories through radio and television programmes. Such programmes are needed to enhance the Arab people's steadfastness and their will of resistance. Children under occupation are also in need of educational programmes, which they miss due to repeated school closures by the occupation authorities, a statement at the end of the symposium said.

The symposium recommended that local programmes be increased on radio and television. It decided to set up a consultative committee to follow up matters related to the education of children and to work in cooperation with Jordan Radio and Television Corporation.

Another committee was created to conduct contacts with companies that produce radio and television programmes to select useful programmes for children.

The participants in the two-day symposium urged Jordanian universities and educational and information institutions to conduct studies and research on

programmes presented to children through the media to propose improvements.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has offered a special reward for the best media work serving children and the symposium has set up a committee to work out rules for such an award.

Upon opening the symposium, Queen Noor honoured a veteran broadcaster who had been presenting children's programmes on Radio Jordan since 1959.

Participants later reviewed several working papers dealing with children's programmes and educational and recreational activities.

Relief agency to open office in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The Islamic Relief Agency "Israa" is to open an office in Amman in order to supervise charity work to the needy and the distribution of relief supplies in time of need, according to an agreement signed between the agency and the Ministry of Social Development.

Israa is a non-governmental Islamic organisation established in Khartoum in 1981 to offer basic services to the feeble, the deprived, the displaced, victims of natural disasters and wars and those victimised because of their sect, religion race and other reasons, said Dr. Saeed Abdullah Saeed, Israa representative in Jordan.

Israa, he said, seeks to spread the concept of charity and solidarity among members of society and lead the way in charity work and in translating ideas into concrete action.

He said that Israa will also try to develop manpower capabilities and provide the needy with proper training and qualifications enabling them to earn a living on their own.

Israa bases its principles and its actions on Islam and its work will complement those undertaken by other non-governmental organisations, Dr. Saeed said. Israa operates two types of offices around the world.

The first type, he said, is like those found in Arab and European countries and the United States which seek to raise funds to finance projects undertaken by Israa and hold contacts with the United Nations organisations to coordinate matters related to providing relief in times of need.

The second type are service offices like those found in Asia and Africa where countries are most in need. The offices there channel assistance and set up projects benefiting the needy, especially in health and education fields.

Dr. Saeed said that nearly 70 per cent of Israa's financial resources are drawn from UN agencies and the rest comes from benefactors. Islamic organisations as well as funds drawn from profits on Israa's investments.

In Jordan, Dr. Saeed said, the agency plans to carry out a number of projects in cooperation with concerned authorities like the Health Ministry, which will help Israa run mother and child care centres in the northern Badia Region. Altogether, Israa plans to open nine such centres in Jordan benefiting 90,000 people according to an Israa survey, Dr. Saeed said.

He said that Israa is contemplating another project and is providing training to women and rehabilitation services to handicapped students. He also said that Israa has been directing part of its aid to the Iraqi people.

Israa has sent four convoys of trucks laden with 250 tonnes of medicines and food supplies to Iraq. The Amman office is now preparing a fifth convoy to be sent to Baghdad soon, Dr. Saeed said.

Israa is governed by a board of trustees chaired by former Sudanese Prime Minister Ali Abdullatif Dajani.

Citing budgetary constraints, Finance Ministry rules out raises for government employees

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Finance Minister Basil Jarrah Wednesday ruled out the possibility of giving government employees a raise on their salary in the immediate future but implied that such a move could materialise in the coming 1992 fiscal budget.

The government does not have sufficient funds in the State Treasury to allow for salary increases at the moment, said the minister in a statement to the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i dailies.

Despite the limited financial resources, a decision in this regard could be taken once the 1992 fiscal budget has been passed by the Council of Ministers, Mr. Jarrah said.

Asked about the prospect of the government responding favourably to demands by those who continually hold



Basil Jarrah

work stoppages or demonstrations for salary allowances or salary increases as happened with doctors, the minister said that doctors had a particular case which can by no means be considered a rule for all.

The government is finding it difficult to recruit qualified specialists to work at its hospitals

in the absence of allowances for the specialists and those are shouldering heavy duties, he noted. He said doctors working in government hospitals are constantly required to do extra work.

Therefore, he said, the government decided that specialists should receive an allowance for their respective specialisations and those doing extra work for their efforts.

Referring to other groups like the geologists (nearly 150 of them and workers employed by the Jordanian Ports Corporation (nearly 400), who have threatened to strike on Oct. 27 for one day, the minister said that the Finance Ministry will examine each case on its own merit.

Geologists President George Haddadin had submitted to the government a memorandum from 150 geologists demanding increases that would cost the Treasury JD 120,000 annually.

Justice minister issues new guidelines urging judges to impose stricter penalties

AMMAN (J.T.) — Justice Minister Tayseer Kanaan Wednesday issued a circular to court judges to take extra deterrent measures in their rulings against those firing arms or driving recklessly, endangering the lives of innocent people.

In his circular, the minister said that strong measures should be taken to deter those tampering

with the lives of people either by firing arms or through their reckless driving. He urged judges to be very strict with violators of the laws in these particular matters and to impose heavy penalties on them.

A statement by the Public Security Department (PSD) Tuesday said that a total of six

persons were killed during August 1991 from stray bullets fired by accident or during festivities.

Among the latest victims of stray bullets was a six-year-old boy, Mohammad Barini, who was hit by a stray bullet during a wedding ceremony near his home in Zarqa.

In another circular, the minister requested all judges to put on their robes during court sessions. It also said that lawyers should follow similar guidelines during court sessions.

The minister said that the donning of robes was in implementation of a 1991 law which was recently ratified by a Royal Decree.

Mr. Kanaan visited Zarqa Wednesday and met with Governor Mohammad Shobaki, who accompanied him on a tour of the city's courts where they heard the views of judges concerning various court procedures and problems encountered in the course of discharging their duties.

Mr. Kanaan said that the Justice Ministry was trying to improve the courts' performance.

Jordan, Sudan agree to set up committee to promote trade

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Sudan have set up a joint economic and trade committee to discuss effective measures to promote economic cooperation and to revise existing trade protocol between them.

Agreement on this step came in talks between official delegations from the two sides, which began at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply Wednesday.

The two sides agreed that the joint committee should concentrate its attention on a working plan to promote bilateral cooperation in the near future, according to a statement by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The Jordanian side was led by Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ali Abul Ragheb and the Sudanese team was led by Sudan's Minister of Trade, Cooperation and Supply Ibrahim Abdullah, who arrived in Amman with his delegation Tuesday evening.

The Sudanese minister voiced his country's deep appreciation of Jordan's continued efforts to promote unity and solidarity among Arab countries in the face of common challenges and expressed hope that the joint committee would overcome obstacles that impede high-level cooperation and trade exchanges between Sudan and Jordan.



Jordanian and Sudanese delegations Wednesday hold talks on establishing joint economic and trade committee (Petra photo)

Dr. Abdullah expressed his country's desire to benefit from Jordan's experiences in various fields, particularly in the Pharmaceutical industry.

For his part, Mr. Abul Ragheb described Jordanian-Sudanese relations as unique and underlined

the importance of promoting economic cooperation to benefit the Sudanese and Jordanian people.

The minister reviewed various difficulties facing Jordan and Sudan resulting from political developments in the region and expressed hope that the commit-

tee would succeed in enabling the two sides to increase the volume of trade.

Dr. Abdullah's visit is expected to last several days during which he will continue to meet with government officials to discuss trade and economic ties.

Jordanian chamber delegation leaves for Tehran

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian industrial and trade delegation led by Khalid Abu Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, Trade and Mining, left Amman for Tehran Tuesday on a four-day visit to Iran.

The delegation will discuss with Iranian officials ways of enhancing industrial and trade relations between Jordan and Iran.

The visit is at the invitation of the president of the Iranian Chamber of Industry, Trade and Mining.

The Jordanian and the Iranian sides to the talks will explore the prospect of establishing Iranian and Jordanian trade centres in Amman and Tehran as well as organising trade exhibitions in the two capitals with the aim of orienting the public on Iranian and Jordanian industrial products.

Minister of Trade, Industry and Supply Ali Abul Ragheb visited Iran last month and arrived at an agreement with the Iranian government on promoting cooperation between the public and private sectors in the two countries.

Mr. Abul Ragheb said following his return that he discussed with the Iranian minister of industry scopes of cooperation in joint industrial ventures and described the outcome of his visit to Iran as very good.

The two sides also agreed to set up a joint committee to meet periodically in Amman and Tehran to follow up on the implementation of agreements.

Council approves IAEA agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — An agreement endorsed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), on the transboundary movement of perilous and radioactive waste has been approved by the Council of Ministers.

The council said in a statement Tuesday that under this agreement, the Kingdom will not allow radioactive materials to be buried in Jordanian territory or pass through Jordan, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Jordan was one of 110 nations that signed the international agreement on controlling the process of dumping dangerous waste. The agreement was reached in the Swiss city of Basel in 1989.

The cabinet also gave approval to a Jordanian-Libyan agreement reached during a visit to Libya by Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Dughni. The agreement covers cooperation in labour-related matters, vocational training, health and education.

In addition, the cabinet approved a protocol which is designed to promote Turkish-Jordanian tourism cooperation and the minutes of deliberation signed by the prime ministers of Yemen and Jordan during the Higher Joint Committee meeting held in Amman last month.

The agreements cover cooperation in economic, culture and trade fields.

Symposium on environment being held in Karak

KARAK (Petra) — The Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCEP) and its partner, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation of Germany, on Wednesday organised a symposium in Karak on means of protecting the agricultural environment.

Dr. Rawhi Al Sharif, who stood in for the society's president, reviewed the organisation's development and its struggle to provide protection to the environment in Jordan.

The society is driving to find proper solutions for environmental

problems through spreading awareness among members of the public in general and the youth in particular, said Dr. Sharif.

He said that the society was hoping to carry out its programmes in cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation through an agreement signed last year.

A foundation representative, addressing the meeting, noted that all countries have a common goal of combating pollution. He said that Jordan has not yet suffered from severe environmental

pollution like the industrialised world but it has to deal with various types of farming and the use of various materials which endanger the environment, soil, water and humans.

The two-day seminar will review various forms of pollution caused by the extensive use of chemical substances like pesticides and their danger to humans and animals. Several speakers from Jordanian universities, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) will address the audience.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Abdul Rauf Shamoun, Khalid Jreiss and Mohammad Hameed Abdullah at Abdul Hameed Shamoun Foundation Gallery (Open 10 a.m. till 6 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by Ibrahim Rasheed and Maha Abdul Karim at the British Council.
- ★ Comprehensive book exhibition at Yarmouk University.
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artists Ismail Khayyat, Mohammad Abdullah, Khatir Mohammad, Ali Mandakawi, Khalid Wali and Hameed Ali at Badana Art Gallery (located at the beginning of Gardens Street from Safway).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Hassan Al Bustani at Alia Art Gallery (opening ceremony at 5 p.m.).

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture on "The Archaeological Contributions to the Development of Mosaic Linear A" by Dr. Edwin Brown, from the University of North Carolina, at ACOR — 7 p.m.

FILMS

- ★ Feature film entitled "Mr. Smith goes to Washington" at the American Centre — 7 p.m.
- ★ Video on Mozart opera "Don Giovanni" at the Goethe Institute — 7 p.m.

JOB VACANCY

The Royal Embassy of Belgium in Amman is seeking to employ an administrative officer.

The applicant should be holder of a B.A., fluent in Arabic, English and French and be able to translate and type Arabic. Interested applicants should send a detailed C.V. with photo to the following address:

Administrative Attaché
Belgian Embassy
P.O.Box 942
Amman

INVITATION

to International Central Tender No. Yu 5/91

Construction of the Faculty of Educational Sciences Building of Yarmouk University Irbid-Jordan

Contractors in building classified category 1 or 2 and foreign contractors who wish to participate in this bid are invited to contact the secretary of the Central Tenders Committee, Yarmouk University as of 12.10.1991 to receive a copy of the tender document No. Yu 5/91 about the construction of the building of the Faculty of Educational Sciences, with an approximate area of 13,000 sq. metres inside Yarmouk University campus/Irbid. The last date to deposit the offer will be 25.11.1991 at 12 o'clock and in accordance with the following conditions:

1. Any offer having any conditions or reservations contradictory to the tender invitation conditions will not be considered.
2. The project is partially financed by the World Bank and by the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
3. The price of the bid-copy is JD200.
4. Last date for selling bid copy is Oct. 30, 1991.
5. Financial offers to be deposited at the tender box at the Central Tenders Committee not later than 12 o'clock, noon, of the date fixed above.
6. The foreign contractors are requested to submit technical and financial proposal. The evaluation of the technical proposal is made on the basis of the criteria and put forth by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing.

Chairman
Yarmouk University Tenders Committee
Address of Yarmouk University
Irbid, Jordan
Tel: 51533 YARMUK JO
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An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Israel at it again

COMING AS it does on the heels of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's hawkish and intransigent speech to the Israeli Knesset Monday, the overflying of Syrian, Iraqi, Jordanian and Saudi airspace by Israeli warplanes Tuesday is nothing but a blatant and arrogant threat to the chances of establishing peace in the Middle East. This latest Israeli act of provocation aimed first and foremost at eroding and undermining the U.S.-led peace process in the region.

It is probably no coincidence that Shamir would send his jets across the airspace of so many Arab countries for no clear military purpose or justification on the eve of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's eighth shuttle mission. It must have dawned on Washington that every trip Mr. Baker made to the area his visit was accompanied or preceded by an Israeli attempt to heighten tension and another growing Arab interest in his peace efforts. Seen against this backdrop, the latest Israeli act of defiance must have targeted Arab sentiments as well, with a view to turning them negative and hostile to the idea and principle of Arab-Israeli peace. In this sense, the mission of the Israeli aircraft corresponds quite well with all interests and objectives of extremists on both sides of the fence who have developed a vested interest in the status quo and the absence of hope for just and durable peace and stability. As a matter of fact, Israeli foreign policy planners have always played into the hands of factions and forces who find in such Israeli policies and practices excuses and justifications for rejecting overtures for a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. There is little doubt therefore that Israeli acts of defiance aim to destabilise the forces of moderation in the Arab World and swell the ranks of those who espouse extremism.

In short, the Israeli warplanes that traversed the territorial airspace of Syria, Iraq, Jordan and Saudi Arabia Tuesday have upped the ante and meant to weaken the forces of moderation in the Arab World, just as the words of Shamir to the Israeli parliament had attempted to do on Monday. By openly and vehemently condemning Israel's violation of Arab airspace, Washington has sent a clear signal that it stands with Israel's efforts to subvert its peace plans with equal determination to push ahead with them. Yet Shamir may be banking on President George Bush buckling under sooner or later under the pressure of Zionist lobbyists in the U.S. The minute the Bush administration's words of rebuke to Israel are translated into actions then we in the Arab World will believe for once and all that at last the U.S. is willing and able to liberate itself from Israeli-Zionist dictates. The U.S.-led peace offensive is therefore the litmus test that will determine how far Washington has actually freed itself from Israeli manipulation.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

FOR the second day running Al Ra'i daily ticked the ongoing wrangling between Parliament and government, noting that the continued differences were harming the country's national interests. Those who have been given authority or power should not place their personal interests above those of the nation and must not be allowed to pursue their objectives at the expense of the public interests, the paper said. Democracy in Jordan, the paper said, is in danger not only from the enemies of the Kingdom, but from all those trying to tamper with the interests of people at a most crucial moment as the country faces numerous problems on the domestic and external fronts. Those aiming to harm the democratic process in Jordan should realise that the masses are ready to defend democracy and protect the country's national security and stability, the paper warned. It said that the public has now recognised those voices which are truly committed to serve the country under all circumstances and in the face of hardships and the other voices trying to confuse the situation with the hope of undermining the country's stability.

INSTEAD of witnessing close cooperation between the government and Parliament to deal with the country's urgent issues and face the coming stage with all its challenges, the public is shocked to see Parliament members attacking the government for no reason, said a columnist in Al Ra'i Wednesday. Instead of busy themselves with matters of concern to the public, Parliament members issue statements slandering the government in which they entrusted their confidence and prepare statements which can only serve their purpose in the coming elections which they are so keen to win, said columnist Al Khawarizmi. Parliament members are divided among themselves over reasons behind their opposition to the present government, the writer said. Describing the 49 members who issued a statement voicing no confidence in the government as members with poor political thought, the writer said, it is painful to see most of these deputies jumping on the band wagon in the hope to become ministers. Indeed, the majority of deputies opposing the present government see the Parliament seat as a channel leading to ministerial portfolios, the paper added. Deputies opposing the government for no reason at all are not offering any meaningful proposals, and their bid is ultimately designed to place Jordan on the shelf, passively responding to developments and events going on around them in the region, stressed the writer. He said that if the group of deputies opposing the government at present are keen on protecting national interest, they should come up with concrete and sound ideas to help the government deal with such pressing problems like the unemployment and water shortage and should help pave the way for the enactment of a political parties law among other matters.

Reflection

To reach out, we must first speak the lingo

HIS Royal Highness the Crown Prince recently stressed the need for Jordanians to change their "approach in dealing with the world" and adopt the cultural analysis method "as a means for understanding changes in political and economic concepts in the Arab World and worldwide." To my mind, there has never been more urgency to this message. Jordan needs to communicate to the world various political and economic arguments in a persuasive and effective manner in order to achieve certain well-defined objectives. This requires a thorough analysis of the psychological and intellectual dispositions of the respective interlocutors and an ability to cast the argument in a framework of common values and concerns.

Such a need cannot be emphasised enough. Failure to link up with a rapidly converging world risks deepening Jordan's current isolation at a critical juncture in modern history. At a time when most of the world seems to have charted a single path for human progress and is busy preparing for a high-speed journey towards economic deliverance, Jordanians cannot afford to stay behind and languish in a sulky torpor. Many a nation had fallen into the black hole of history for a lesser sin.

It is ironic that Jordan, which for 40 years had preached private initiative amidst the strangleholds of socialism, should find it fitting now to hold back the tide of economic liberalisation and public sector reforms at a time when Poland, East Germany and Hungary are giving away or liquidating thousands of state enterprises and when China and Vietnam are discharging millions of government employees. Curiously, not a single politician of note had publicly espoused market-based economics ever since

the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Another sad irony is that Jordan, which boasted of so many harmonious relations during 40 years of international friction, should find itself at odds with so many countries in these days of global harmony.

It is impossible as well as intellectually dishonest to analyse the causes and ramifications of Jordan's current isolation without a candid and painful review of the socio-political impact of the Gulf crisis and the panoply of events and forces that came into play on the Jordanian stage throughout that period. Yet, at the risk of being accused of dodging controversy, I shall defer a full discussion of the core issues to a later date, my editor permitting. Suffice it to say that since our isolation is largely self-induced, it can happily be reversed, given the proper change of outlook.

I shall confine myself to commenting on the spectacle of yet another round of haggling with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which illustrates the failure, after 30 months of intermittent contacts, to steer the substance and focus of the negotiations to Jordan's advantage.

The failure stems from two fundamental deficiencies. The first is the lack of coherent and comprehensive economic policies. Ever since the IMF imposed its package of fiscal and monetary measures, the government has taken to dub this package as the "National Programme for Economic Restructuring" and refer to it whenever it spoke of economic policies. Now, any serious economist (including the head of the IMF mission) would tell you that these measures were not designed to engender economic growth, only to appease the lenders into rescheduling the Kingdom's external debt. More to the point, these measures

cannot on their own but harm economic growth in the short and medium terms, since they focus mainly on raising tax revenues and restricting the growth of the money supply. On that score, the IMF package doesn't constitute a national economic policy because it is not meant to achieve a national economic priority (a sustainable rate of growth higher than the rate of population increase). The lack of domestic economic policies means that government negotiators have no clear and well-defined objectives vis-a-vis the IMF talks and, consequently, no strategy on how to conduct these talks successfully. They find themselves instead in the untenable position of being on the defensive, always reacting to IMF proposals, and unable to seize the initiative.

The second deficiency is the inability or unwillingness of Jordan's economic decision-makers to adopt the only language the IMF now understands: the language of market-based economics.

What is required is a dramatic shift in the focus of these talks towards addressing the needs of Jordan rather than those of the lenders. The negotiations must be conducted about such issues as debt forgiveness, rescheduling bank debt on the basis of net cash inflow, and the need for massive financial and technical aid to alleviate the country's problems.

To accomplish this, we must undertake sweeping economic and public sector reforms, far more radical than anything the IMF envisaged, in order to generate sustainable economic growth and, in the process, restore our financial credibility. Moreover, we must reach the hearts and minds of international lending agencies and world economic powers so as to clear the table for the proper sort of dialogue. But first, we must learn to speak the lingo.

Future of democracy remains uncertain in Kuwait

By Diana Abdallah Reuter

KUWAIT—Prospects for democracy remain uncertain in Kuwait, where the political scene looks at first glance much as it did before Iraqi invasion.

The opposition, although more united and outspoken than before the invasion, is eager to restore democracy.

But the ruling Al Sabah family appears as determined as ever to maintain its grip on the emirate's political and business life.

The opposition says the battle for general elections due in October 1992 will be tough and it expects the ruling family to do its best to tip the results in its favour.

"They are working like mad to get a loyal parliament even if it means rigging the elections... for them it is a matter of life or death," said Ahmed Al Khatib, a leading opposition figure.

He said the royal family — which dissolved parliament in 1986 — did not want a new legislative body that would question its failure to defend Kuwait against Iraq's invasion in 1990.

"They don't want anybody elected who will raise the basic issues of how they confronted the invasion... they don't want to discuss their role and responsibility. They don't want to allow people to discuss the need to hold them accountable," he added.

But government officials say the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, is determined to introduce democracy.

"When the emir announced the elections it showed that he was serious about democracy. Kuwait will have a new parliament," said one official who refused to be named.

The opposition accuses the royal family of trying to change the electoral constituencies to give more parliamentary seats to the bedouin tribes, which are traditionally loyal to it and depend on the generous welfare state for jobs and housing.

"They are trying to decide who will be in parliament from now," Mr. Khatib said. "The opposition is aware of this and has a plan to confront it. The battle will not be as easy one."

Western diplomats say it is still too early to see how the democratic process will shape up.

"But there is no doubt that the elections will take place. The world is keen on a form of democracy in Kuwait and the government is not going to forget the role of the West in liberating the country," one diplomat said.

The seven different strands of the opposition have set up a common political platform. Their joint demands include the abolition of the national council — a controversial interim body dismissed by the opposition as unconstitutional — and changes to the electoral law, introduction

of an uncensored press and other freedoms and guarantees of a fair general election.

The opposition admits the role of the Western allies in freeing Kuwait influenced the government's decision to hold the elections, but says it is getting no support from the coalition.

"It will be difficult for the government to come up with excuses for not having the elections because the international role in Kuwait will not allow the continued absence of democracy," said lawyer Ismael Seif, a political activist.

The opposition does not challenge the right of the Sabahs to rule, but it wants a bigger role in governing the country.

"We want more participation by Kuwaitis in running their country on the principle that the Sabahs will reign and the people rule," said former Deputy Khaleed Al Wazni.

Many of the opposition figures are businessmen who want a greater share of the business in Kuwait. They are angered that a government they regard as incompetent is deciding the future of the emirate without reference to ordinary Kuwaitis.

"The anger against the government is widespread. There are hundreds of projects and contracts. The royal and people close to them are involved in every contract. The Kuwaiti merchants who are not linked to the royals are suffering," Mr. Khatib said.

The government says it is encouraging the private sector and awarding reconstruction contracts to local firms.

The Sabahs have ignored criticism of their failure to defend the country against the Iraqi invasion and of their style of government since the liberation of the country in February.

Many Kuwaitis were shocked when the Sabahs dominated the top posts in a cabinet reshuffle in April.

The Opposition accuses the government of using money to gain the loyalty of Kuwaitis. The government has decided to compensate every Kuwaiti for the Iraqi invasion and has also forgiven all loans prior to it.

Mr. Khatib said the opposition had failed to seize on public anger at the government's failure to quickly restore basic services at a time when Kuwaitis cared more about having no water, electricity and telephones than about democracy.

"Many of the Kuwaitis did not want to think about democracy. The joy at an end to the nightmare overshadowed everything else," Mr. Khatib said. "But when historic moments pass, that is it. The government succeeded in pulling the rug from under our feet."

Israel pushes U.S. ahead of crucial Baker peace shuttle

By Robert Mahoney Reuter

JERUSALEM — Israel, fuming at U.S. pressure to bring it to peace talks with Arabs, has backed up tough talking with action by warplanes and Jewish settlers just before a crucial visit by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

By sending fighters over Iraq and allowing settlers to move into a Jerusalem Arab area that is a hotbed of Palestinian resistance, Israel's right-wing government has signalled to Washington it has the ability to disrupt the proposed talks.

"Timing is everything," said one diplomat of the flight by four Israeli F-15s over Iraq last Friday. U.S. officials in Washington voiced concern that a military clash now between Israel and Iraq could undermine Mr. Baker's eighth visit to the Middle East next week. He is expected to issue invitations to Israel, its Arab neighbours and Palestinians to a peace conference at the end of this month.

But Washington, which has angered many Israeli right-wingers by fixing its financial

muscle to prod the Jewish state to temper its reaction to the sorties over Iraq. The White House said simply it was disturbed by the flights.

With U.S.-Israeli relations at their frostiest in years, Mr. Baker does not want to give Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing backers a chance to sabotage the peace process by reacting more forcefully.

Some of the right-wingers who oppose the peace talks moved into houses in the Silwan neighbourhood of Arab East Jerusalem on Wednesday morning. Critics called the take-over a provocation designed to thwart peace efforts.

The U.S. regards East Jerusalem as part of the territory occupied by Israel since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and has not recognised its annexation by the Jewish state.

Mr. Baker calls the settlement of Jews among the nearly two million Palestinians there and in the West Bank and Gaza Strip an impediment to peace.

Israel officials and members of

Mr. Shamir's Likud Party tried to distance the government from the take-over in Silwan and said police had removed settlers from most of the Arab houses they had seized.

But settler sources said Mr. Shamir's hawkish cabinet Minister Ariel Sharon lay behind the move. The Public Housing Corporation under Mr. Sharon's Housing Ministry gave residence rights to the Silwan houses to the small group of settlers known as El Ad, settler spokesman Shifra Blass said.

Mr. Sharon, a fierce opponent of Mr. Baker's peace efforts, said only that Jews had the right to live anywhere in Jerusalem.

Another extreme rightist cabinet member, Science Minister Yuval Neeman said of the take-over: "If one result will be that it will be hard to convene the conference I certainly would not be sorry."

Settler sources said activists among the 100,000 settlers in the territories were considering further take-overs and protests ahead of Mr. Baker's visit to Israel next week.

Mr. Blass denied that El Ad

was trying to torpedo the peace drive or was connected to much bigger settlement movements like Gush Emunim (block of the faithful) which erected a settlement in the West Bank during Mr. Baker's first visit in March.

Settler sources, however, said individuals from Gush Emunim helped in the Silwan take-overs.

"Whether this is the right-wing telling Shamir not to yield or Shamir allowing the right-wing to have its head is hard to say," said one diplomat. "Either way it serves his agenda."

Mr. Shamir hammered home that agenda this week in an attempt to compromise speech to parliament. He said the peace talks may never get off the ground.

He rejected the idea favoured by Washington and all Arab countries that Israel should exchange captured land for peace with its neighbours.

He also vowed to continue Jewish settlements, a policy which contributed to the Bush administration's decision last month to delay \$10 billion in loan guarantees which Israel needs to house an influx of Soviet Jews.

Discrimination against non-Jews in Israel



WHILE the ongoing saga of Israel's run-in with the United States over its request for \$10 billion in housing loan guarantees continues to grab the headlines, in Israel itself a housing story of a very different sort is unfolding.

For the inhabitants of Ramyah, a small village in the northern Galilee, the nightmare of all Palestinians since 1948 is in the process of coming true. Ramyah is one of approximately a hundred "unrecognised" Arab villages inside Israel. For the people who live there, bedouins, not being recognised means that, after more than forty years of officially being Israeli citizens, they are still without water, electricity, sewage, schools and roads.

Although the villagers have papers which prove their possession of the land dating back before the founding of the state of Israel, they are being evicted from their homes. The problem is that the nearby Jewish town of Carmel — built in 1966 on expropriated Arab lands, part of which in the past belonged to the people of Ramyah — has been expanding rapidly.

On April 27, 1991, the whole village of Ramyah received a summons to appear in court. On June 16, the Haifa District Court decided that the people of Ramyah must vacate their homes and their lands within three months because of the urgent

need to settle immigrants in that area, as it was formulated by the Israel Lands Authority in an affidavit presented to the court.

Apart from the outrageous injustice being suffered by the people of Ramyah, there is the danger of a precedent being set by this case. If Ramyah is seized, other "unrecognised" Arab villages are liable to suffer a similar fate.

A day of solidarity with the residents of Ramyah was held on Aug. 17. Several (Arab) Knesset members were present, as well as representatives of the neighbouring Arab municipalities, and other organisations. People came from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, and a few inhabitants from Carmel came too. The mayor of Carmel commented: "The eviction of a few dozen Arabs living illegally on public lands — that is the price for the Judaisation of Galilee."

An appeal to the Israeli High Court has been made and its verdict is expected at the beginning of October, but there is very little chance that the Haifa court's decision will be overturned. Support groups are, therefore, attempting to focus international attention on this issue, which can only be described as underhand and, worse, a discriminatory measure aimed at the non-Jewish citizens of Israel. — CAABU..

LETTERS

Polemic goes on

To the Editor:

Although belated, I would nonetheless like to comment on the letter written by Nidal Ibrahim, published in the Jordan Times on September 16.

The writer was incensed because the censors for Jordan Television were denying him the opportunity to share in the dynamic experience of couples kissing tenderly on television. Let's look at both the matter of kissing and censorship and see if we can reach a sensible conclusion.

First, tender and passionate kissing between two persons of the opposite sex is, by the common knowledge of all married persons, the preliminary of lovemaking and an inducer of more passionate feelings. The seemingly innocent widespread public display of it in the Western media does not detract from its true significance. In normal societies people have a sense of moral values and modesty that defines for them what is or isn't acceptable. Would the writer, for instance, like his parents to passionately kiss so that he could share these moments with them, or would he like to get a ticket to sit in at his neighbour's wedding night, or for that matter would he like two people that he didn't even know to exchange their first loving kiss in his own living room? Would he like to be seen in public "as he gently caressed her red cheeks and their heads began to move forward" while he was "waited for the fireworks to begin"?

I'm sure that he has a sense of human decency and that he finds the above suggestions both vulgar and out of place. So I ask him, why is it that he craves for exactly the same thing on television? Is it not logical that what you wouldn't accept in real life, you wouldn't accept in your home on television?

What people are constantly exposed to in the media gradually alters their values and inevitably affects their social behaviour. If the writer is smart enough to turn off the TV when he sees something he doesn't like, most habitual TV watchers depend on it for their entertainment and just leave it on, even if they disagree with the content.

Jordan is a society that is still guided by some firm moral principles and it is to this that we owe the low percentage of divorce rates, broken families, drug problems, juvenile delinquency, adultery, illegitimate children, and a virtually non-existent AIDS problem among other things. Should we leave "nature to worry about itself" or should we be responsible members of the community concerned about the direction our society is taking and censor our TV screens from acts that we would otherwise find socially unacceptable and be offended by their occurrence in public?

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The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Handwritten signature: *Yusuf al-Jarrah*

Nobel's prizes — from scandal to national asset

By Lars Foyen
Reuter

STOCKHOLM — Swedish industrialist Alfred Nobel caused a sensation when he bequeathed his fortune to set up the Nobel Prizes.

Swedes found out about the prizes only after Nobel's death in 1896. Protests followed when the inventor of dynamite's will stipulating that the awards would go to "the most worthy... whether he is Scandinavian or not" was disclosed.

"The early reaction was very negative," Baron Stig Ramel, head of the Nobel Foundation, told Reuters in an interview ahead of the 1991 awards, which began

with the prize for literature Oct. 3.

"It was not the best environment for a donation which would primarily benefit foreigners," he said.

Nobel, probably the richest Swede of his time, donated the annual income from his fortune — worth about \$160 million in today's money — to finance prizes in physics, chemistry, medicine, literature and peace.

At the time Sweden was an impoverished agricultural and highly nationalistic country.

Right-wing politicians felt the money should have been reserved for Swedish scientists. The left denounced the

prizes as a trick designed "to make capitalism look a bit better," Baron Ramel said.

Nobel's relatives unsuccessfully contested the will for three years. Swedish academic institutions and the Norwegian parliament's peace prize committee, named by Nobel to select the laureates, were reluctant to take on the task.

"They were surprised to say the least and saw it at first as a virtually impossible job," said Baron Ramel, director of the foundation investing Nobel's money and administering the prizes.

But the prizes, first awarded in 1901, were an instant success, partly because they were the first of

their kind and partly because of the money. Each prize was worth about \$1 million in today's money, the same amount as the 1991 awards.

"It was an enormous prize, some 22 annual salaries for a professor, and well worth the trip to Stockholm," Baron Ramel said.

What was once a scandal has become an invaluable public relations asset. The Foreign Ministry estimates that a third of foreign press coverage of Sweden concerns the Nobel awards.

In Sweden, the annual award ceremony and royal banquet on Dec. 10 — the anniversary of Nobel's death — are the social events of the

year.

"As I see it, the international prizes were Nobel's most important invention, one dramatic than dynamite," Baron Ramel said, stressing their impact on Swedish science.

"Prominent foreign scientists like to come to Sweden for some reason, to make themselves known, to do research and to establish contacts," he added.

The mystery of Nobel the man, who at the age of 18 wrote a long love poem starting "You say I am a riddle," is part of the lure.

Why did he give away his fortune, and why did he choose to award brilliance in those five specific fields?

Why did the owner of an arms company establish a peace prize?

Nobel was born in Stockholm in 1833 of poor Swedish parents. He grew up in the Russian city of St. Petersburg where his inventor father moved in search of new markets. He later studied chemistry in Paris where he based his business empire.

"The overriding reason for the prizes was that Nobel had no children. He was politically radical and believed that big fortunes should not be inherited," said Baron Ramel.

The international prizes reflected Nobel's own cosmopolitan background and interest. A chemist who dab-

bled in physics and medicine, Nobel also wrote poetry and promoted peace congresses.

The economics prize, officially the Alfred Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics, came later. It was established in 1968 by Sweden's Central Bank which finances it.

The reason for delegating the peace prize to Norway was that Nobel wanted to honour the union of Sweden and Norway. It broke up in 1905, but Norway still presents the prize.

Baron Ramel dismissed the suggestion that the peace prize was a way to make up for Nobel's work with explosives.

"That is an idiotic thought. Dynamite was a safe explosive which reduced accidents, and it was not used in war," he said.

Two years before his death, Nobel acquired Swedish arms maker Bofors for a grand scheme to invent weapons which he hoped would end all wars.

Nobel wrote to his close friend, Austrian peace activist Bertha von Suttner:

"The day when two contending armies and destroy each other within seconds, all civilised nations will retreat from war and demolish their armies. My factories may perhaps put an end to war before your congresses."

Norwegian 'solves' riddle of ancient Crete

By Alister Doyle
Reuter

OSLO — A Norwegian scholar says he has deciphered texts written almost 4,000 years ago in Crete that solve an ancient riddle — and weaken Greece's role as the cradle of Western civilisation.

The language used on the Mediterranean island by the Minoan race — whose origins have puzzled archaeologists for centuries — had roots in Arabia or Ethiopia, says Kjell Aartun, who has spent his life studying ancient texts.

Hitherto, many scholars believed Minoan was a form of Greek.

"What about Greece, the cradle of Western civilisation?" said Mr. Aartun. "Before, we thought that Greece influenced Crete and the Minoans. Now it turns out that the river has flowed in the opposite direction."

The texts, ranging from

erotic poetry used in fertility rituals to humdrum book-keeping items, demonstrate that the Minoans, who built fabulous labyrinthine palaces in Bronze Age Crete, had major influence throughout the Mediterranean.

"This is a major contribution to the ancient history of Crete," said Rudolf Macuch, an emeritus professor of languages at the Free University of Berlin familiar with Mr. Aartun's work. "He shows that there was a pre-Greek culture in Crete."

The Minoans flourished from roughly 2000 BC until they were overcome by a disaster about 1450 BC — a millennium before the golden age of Athens. Many archaeologists believe a tidal wave swept over Crete after a cataclysmic eruption of the volcanic island of Santorini to the north.

Mr. Aartun, 66, told Reuters the oldest Minoan texts, in Hieroglyphs or a parallel

form of writing known as Linear A, were a form of Semitic, a group of languages including Arabic, Phoenician, Aramaic and Hebrew.

"The Minoans were a Semitic people, belonging to the south Semitic language region," he said. "These facts are documented by the close relationship to south Arabic and Semitic languages in modern Ethiopia."

Mr. Aartun said he had degrees in theology, Semitic languages and Greek and had studied at universities in Germany, Norway, Sweden and Israel. His specialty is Ugaritic, an ancient Semitic culture first unearthed in Syria in 1929.

"The texts from Crete reveal a well-developed welfare state which was also feudal in character," Mr. Aartun said.

"The inscriptions tell us that the ruler provided various kinds of goods to different kinds of people, including food, water and cleaning

substances to the elderly and the infirm.

"The Minoans founded colonies on the Greek islands, in Asia minor and on the European mainland," he said, adding that Minoan culture — from dress to architecture — was widely adopted.

Mr. Aartun said that even names of many of the Greek gods had Semitic roots, such as "Aphrodite," the Greek goddess of love.

He said he had translated 170 of the 350 or so Minoan texts.

A later type of writing found on Crete and dating from after 1450 BC is known as Linear B. The key to Linear B was discovered in the 1950s by Britton Michael Ventris, who showed it was a form of Greek. This led many to assume that the older Linear A was also Greek.

"It turns out that the Greeks never discovered a system for writing," Mr. Aar-

tun said. "First they adapted the writing of the Minoans to Greek in 1450 BC. Then they began using the Phoenician script, which is at the root of our own alphabet."

"Aartun said full results of his findings would be published in a book in Germany next year.

Mr. Aartun said his interest in Crete started when some friends sent him a postcard in the 1980s depicting a discus from Phaistos — one of the four Minoan palaces on Crete — inscribed with undeciphered Hieroglyphs in a spiral. His friends suggested he should try to read it.

He found that the words were a religious poem dating from about 1700 BC.

"The priest or priestess would have read it as a man and woman acted a fertility ritual," he said. He said eroticism was the central element of the religious texts on Crete, as in many ancient cultures.

One mystery of the Minoan palaces — a lack of fortifications — was perhaps due to the dominance of Minoan sea power, which deterred attack and gave the Minoans influence as far as Spain. The Minoans seemed to have been a peaceful people.

In Greek mythology, the great Cretan Palace of Knossos under King Minos was a maze inhabited by the minotaur — half-bull, half-man to which Greek maidens and young men were sacrificed.

Theseus, a prince from mainland Greece, eventually slew the minotaur, unwinding a thread as he walked the labyrinth to ensure he could retrace his steps. Minoan frescoes from Knossos also depict men leaping over bulls.

But Mr. Aartun said he had not managed to solve one riddle — texts studied so far make no mention of sacrifices nor of the role of the bull.



Prince Albert of Monaco

New film is reminder of unsolved plane disaster

By John Follain
Reuter

VENICE — Eleven years ago, an Italian airliner exploded mysteriously off Sicily. Today, the families of the 81 people who died are still asking two questions: Why? And who?

An unflinching film has given their personal battle for the truth new impetus and officials again are rushing to refute suspicions of an intricate cover-up involving the military, politicians and the secret services.

There is no shortage of sinister mysteries in Italy. But one of the most dis-

turbing is the fate of the DC-9 airliner of the now defunct Itavia Lines which crashed into the sea near Sicily on the night of June 27, 1980.

Theories about the downing of the Bologna-to-Palermo flight include destruction by a terrorist bomb or a missile seeking a pilotless target drone during military exercises.

But the most popular hypothesis, supported by some experts, is that a European fighter or an American plane from the Sixth Fleet scrambled to intercept a Libyan MiG-23 in the area and

accidentally shot down the DC-9 with a heat-seeking missile.

European and U.S. Air Forces have strongly denied that their planes were involved in the accident.

Twenty-nine Italian Air Force radar officers and officials and several agents of the secret services are under investigation on charges of hiding evidence and giving false testimony to inquiries into the crash.

At the premiere of Muro Di Gomma (Wall Of Silence) at the Venice Film Festival this month, an audience including some 20 relatives of

the victims gave Italian director Marco Risi a four-minute standing ovation.

In the opening scenes, the name of each of the 81 passengers is read out at Palermo Airport — one by one, a punch in the stomach for relatives watching.

"I found myself living that scene at the airport again," said Giannina Bonfietti, whose husband was on the plane.

"I have never forgotten that silent pain, that destruction without hope. I was young, my daughter had fallen asleep on my shoulder. I cried in silence so as not to

wake her."

Daria Bonfietti, her sister-in-law and spokeswoman for a group of relatives of the victims, said: "The film is simple, perfect in concentrating 11 years of filth, inefficiency and guilt, in just two hours."

"Risi respects our feelings and is a bit like us: Simple people who want to find the truth without needing to become heroes."

The film chronicles 11 years of investigations through an obstinate journalist's hunt for the facts. They are dogged by mysterious gaps in evidence, including

missing radar records, reluctance by military officials to give information and long delays in recovering the underwater wreckage.

Clearly moved by the warmth of the Venice audience, the 40-year-old Risi said: "That's the most important thing. The film wouldn't mean anything without that reaction."

Risi, however, doubted his film would change anything.

"That's not my aim. I just hope the film will help the people who don't want to forget and encourage them to go on fighting so that the truth comes out," he said.

Prince Albert won't be rushed into marriage

By Penelope Hocking-Vigie
Reuter

MONTE CARLO — Prince Albert of Monaco, one of the world's most eligible bachelors, is in no hurry to get married.

"Of course I want to get married eventually and have kids," he told Reuters in a rare interview. "But it's not for other people to decide when the time is right."

The 33-year-old heir to the throne of this tiny Mediterranean principality is tall, blond, an accomplished sportsman and very, very rich.

He is often photographed in the company of attractive women, and ambitious mothers send him photos of their daughters. But he has no intention of bowing to pressure.

"There are people around me — I don't mean my family — who drop hints and try to steer me into marriage," he said.

"But I'm not going to get married just to make some people happy. It's my life, after all."

Were Prince Albert to announce his engagement, it would be welcome news in a family that has often been hit by tragedy.

Prince Albert's mother, the former U.S. film star Grace Kelly, died in a car accident in 1982. And last year his elder sister Caroline lost her husband, Stefano Casiraghi, in a boating accident.

Prince Albert has tended to shun the limelight in recent years, concentrating instead

on learning from his father, Prince Rainier III, how to run the principality — the world's second smallest state after the Vatican.

Although he does his best to keep his private life to himself, he does not always succeed.

This year a photographer from the popular French weekly Paris Match snapped Prince Albert on his yacht looking affectionately at an unidentified blonde woman.

"The photo was taken from afar, and I was obviously unaware of it," he said.

"I don't know how they get their information. Each time I took my boat out this summer, I didn't know in advance where I was going. But they always seem to find me. I know they have informers."

When Prince Albert finally accedes to the throne, he will take charge of a thriving financial centre, tax haven and retreat of such international celebrities as ex-Beatle Ringo Starr, singer Shirley Bassey and tennis star Boris Becker.

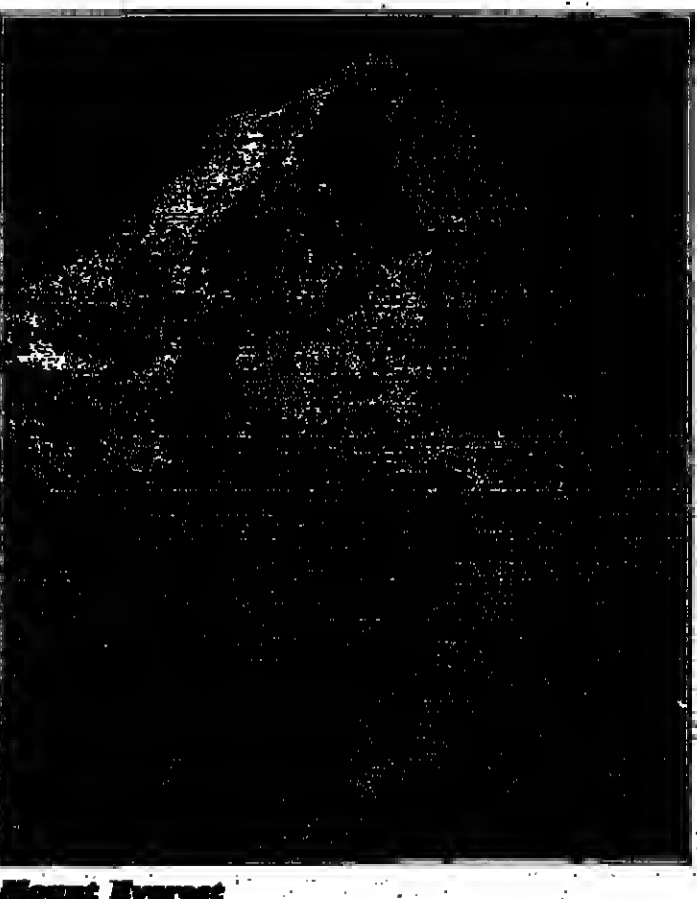
The opening of European markets after 1993 and the likely movement of capital away from Hong Kong after it reverts to Chinese control in 1997 are all seen as likely to put pressure on Monaco's traditions of intimacy and discretion.

"We'll try to accommodate as many (investors) as we can," Prince Albert said.

"Obviously, some thinking will have to change here. But, like my father, I'll be committed to maintaining the traditions and lifestyle which are our greatest assets."

Peak will challenge Everest as the world's highest mountain

By Jules Stewart
Reuter



LONDON — Mountaineers planning to tackle the world's highest peak will have to set their sights on a new summit — in about 150,000 years' time.

That is when Pakistan's Nanga Parbat, at 26,000 feet (8,126 metres), now merely the ninth-highest mountain on Earth, will overtake 29,028-foot (8,845 metre) Everest in Nepal.

"The race began about 30 million years ago, when the Himalaya was first formed," said geologist Nigel Harris. That was some 20 million years after India collided with the rest of Asia.

"India originally lay in the southern hemisphere, where it fragmented from a vast southern landmass," said Harris, a professor of earth science at Britain's Open University.

Oceans shrink as well as

expand, due to a process called subduction. In the contraction of ocean basins the continents on their opposing sides converge.

The giant Indian continent drifted north at about 20 centimetres a year, when it hit something and moved sideways.

A sea, known as Tethys, which had separated India from Asia, disappeared. But India's northward push continued at about five centimetres (two inches) a year, eventually giving birth to the 3,000 kilometre long Himalayas, the world's youngest and fastest rising mountain range.

It is still rising today.

Prof. Harris, who has conducted research projects in some of the least hospitable areas of Tibet and Central Asia, said a new measuring method called fission-track dating has enabled scientists to determine the rate of growth of the Himalayas, and identify which peak is rising

fastest.

Nanga Parbat, the huge, lonely northwest cornerstone of the Himalayas, has long been a sobering challenge to mountaineers.

The Austrian climber Hermann Buhl was the first man to set foot on its summit in 1953. He described it as: "That peak of many names, sometimes called the fateful peak, or the mountain of terror... that pitiless domain demanding its holocaust and giving nothing in return, luring me into its thrall, never to set them free."

Fission-track dating allows an estimate to be made of the rate at which rocks have reached the surface of the Earth's crust by examining microscopic tracks left in minerals by nuclear fission.

"This method indicates that Nanga Parbat is being uplifted at about one centimetre a year, almost double the uplift rate for most of the Himalayas," said Prof. Harris.

It is all a far cry from the 19th century, when the survey of India recruited agents, known as pundits, to explore the forbidden land of Tibet.

Often disguised as monks, they kept track of distances with prayer beads and they estimated altitudes from the boiling-point of water.

The Himalayan uplift has practical implications for today's traveller.

Geological instability in the region poses the constant threat of earthquakes.

In 1841 a gigantic landslide in the Nanga Parbat region dropped into the Indus River and stored up six months of water in a natural dam. A second convulsion smashed the dam and swept away a Sikh army encamped 300 kilometres downstream.

More recently some 200 people died earlier this year in a quake west of Nanga Parbat.

"There will be more," said Prof. Harris.

Where laughter comes from

By Maha Adnan

ALL it takes is for one person in a group to suggest a joke-telling session and everyone is soon avalanched with jokes as all those present chime in with their own contributions, telling their anecdotes with their own personal styles, (sometimes starting with the punchline).

Every one, has his own personal joke that he likes to remember and relate over and over again so that it is no longer the content that makes you laugh, but the actual tension built up when the person repeats the same story again. The only consolation is that laughter is the only addictive thing that no one has yet come out and said is bad for you. Unless you relate the jokes as my classmates and I did in school, in the middle of class.

We would be sitting there listening to some terribly boring lecture and suddenly a joke would come to mind. This of course only happened in lectures where our teachers were so serious that a smile was a taboo. Knowing this made the joke even more tempting. Writing a small note on the edge of the note book was all that was needed to announce what was coming. Soon the entire joke would be in writing and you and the person next to you would be ready to explode with laughter. You would hold the laughter back just like your angelic neighbour would be doing, and you hold off, and off and then one of you would give out a small sound and that would be enough for the dam to break. So that never mind getting into trouble with our teacher, never mind that a fuming teacher would now be standing right next to our desks or that we would soon be kicked out of class. Our major concern was whether we would ever be able to stop laughing long enough to inhale. And it is downhill from there because even if by a miracle of power (like being told you will be sent to see the dean) you stop, all it will take to jump-start you again is to attain eye contact with your neighbour. That is the only situation I know of that indicates that laughter is "bad" for you.

So where do jokes that cause laughter come from? Who makes them up? And how do they get around so fast? Since these are not easy to answer it is best to discuss instead people's different styles in telling jokes. We know this person whom we ask to repeat (everytime we see him) the incident when he had to take his aunt and her daughters home after a dinner invitation at his house. "My aunt and her two daughters are obese," he would announce. "Although they would scare any taxi driver speechless, I felt it was only courteous to take them home at 11 p.m. in my small one-door sports car. I would open the door and squeeze the car seat as far as it could go and my aunt would fit in, followed by her first daughter. When the second daughter would follow suit, I would hear the car door from the other side open and my aunt would walk right out of the



car from the other side. They just didn't fit in there. After two further attempts, and having one of them sit next to me being completely out of the question, I decided to take two separate trips to crane them home," he would conclude.

Maybe you do not think this is funny, but the way he relates the story; I and all those who hear it end up in hysterical laughter.

Laughter, as summed up by one philosopher, is a means to puff away surplus tension in a kind of respiratory gymnastics. Scientifically it is a motor reflex produced by the coordinated contraction of 15 facial muscles in a stereotyped pattern and accompanied by altered breathing. But personally, thank God for laughter.

Research supports earlier studies that man originated in Africa

By Paul Rorer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The first human ancestor, the so-called "mother of us all," was a primitive woman who lived some 200,000 years ago in Africa, say researchers who have made a new study of worldwide genetic patterns.

"There was a population in Africa of individuals ... of anatomically archaic humans, whose descendants at a later time underwent the transformation to modern humans," said Mark Stoneking, an anthropologist at Pennsylvania State University.

The study is based on genetic study of individuals from Africa, Asia, Europe, Australia, New Guinea and North America.

Among the early African group would have been a single woman who first possessed a genetic pattern that can now be traced, through an endless series of mutations and overlapping similarities, to all humanity, he said.

In a study to be published Friday in the *Journal of Science*, Mr. Stoneking and his coauthors claim that this common ancestor lived between 166,000 and 249,000 years ago somewhere south of the Sahara Desert in Africa.

Other experts in the field consider the study and its conclusions to be highly controversial and one researcher, Eric Trinkaus, called

the findings "a house of cards" based on assumptions that cannot be proven.

Mr. Trinkaus, professor of anthropology at the University of New Mexico, said that the Stoneking study cannot be considered a final conclusion on the origin of humanity.

Some calculations suggest that the estimate by Mr. Stoneking could be off by a factor of two or three in time, which could push the origin back another 500,000 or so years, he said.

Mr. Trinkaus said that two European scientists, Lounant Excoffier of the University of Geneva and Andre Langany of the Museum of Man in Paris, used the Mitochondria technique in 1989 while searching for a white common ancestor. They concluded that the uncertainties were too high "to put a clock on this."

Mr. Stoneking's study is a refinement of a 1987 report by him and other scientists, including the late Allan C. Wilson who described it as a search for "the mother of us all."

Mr. Stoneking said the new conclusions are based on an analysis of genetic information from 189 people around the globe.

The researchers compared the patterns contained in Mitochondrial DNA, MTDNA, a genetic code found in all cells and which is always inherited from the mother. By tracing patterns found in the MTDNA, Mr.

Stoneking said the researchers could construct branches of a tree of inheritance that leads finally back to the root, or source of the original MTDNA.

In effect, he said, the study reflects "the maternal history of our species."

Mr. Stoneking said the research overcame a weakness of the 1987 study by including 121 specimens from seven different African tribes as well as eight African Americans.

The pattern of inheritance traced by all the specimens led to Africa and to the conclusion that modern humans arose somewhere on that continent south of the Sahara, the researcher said.

Mr. Stoneking said his group is gathering specimens now to study the movement of early humans in the South Pacific. Eventually, he said, it may be possible to draw a world map that details the timing of global human migration.

LETTERS

Friends in Jordan

Dear Sirs,

Please publish my name and address in your letters to the editor column.

My name is Anthony D. DiMario, 29 years old and an American businessman.

It is my intention to tour the Middle East including Jordan next year and I would appreciate having friends in Jordan.

My address is: Anthony Davis DiMario, #16033077, P.O. Box 9000, Scarsville, N.Y. 12159, USA.

Thank you,

Anthony Davis DiMario.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Oct. 10

8:30 The Simpsons

9:10 Beyond West World

The Lion

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Positive J.D.

Starring: Stephanie Rascio, John Davis Steve Formholes and Lora Lane

Friday, Oct. 11

8:30 Coach

Starring: Craig Wilson, Jerry Van Dyke, Clare Carey and Kris Kamm

9:10 Shakespeare

Othello (Part 3)

10:00 News In English

1:20 W.I.O.U.

Starring: John Shea, Helen Shaver and Harris Yulin

An elephant dies in the studio and the station faces a problem in disposing off the body.

Saturday, Oct. 12

8:30 Totally Hidden Video

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Life On The Land

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

The Million Dollar Duck

Sunday, Oct. 13

8:30 The Golden Girls

9:10 Murder She Wrote

Something Borrowed, Someone

Jessica is invited to a relative's wedding in the bride father's mansion. The housekeeper is murdered, and Jessica helps the local police in finding the murderer.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Orchid House

Monday, Oct. 14

8:30 Hey Dad

9:10 The Midas Touch

The Power Of The Yen

How far can financial power take the place of military power in influencing the world. And how Japan has transformed herself effectively.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Gabriel's Fire

Money Walks

Tuesday, Oct. 15

8:30 Who's The Boss

9:10 Our House

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Feature Film

En Toute Innocence

Starring: Michel Serrault and Nathalie Baye



The Golden Girls on JTV Channel 2 Sunday at 8:30

Wednesday, Oct. 16

8:30 The Family Man

A Tiny Advantage

Jack tries to use a friend to win a contest against a rival line station, but discovers that using people is not a nice thing to do.

9:10 Cosmos

10:00 News In English

10:20 Equal Justice

Thursday, Oct. 17

8:30 The Simpsons

9:10 Beyond West World

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

A Summer Story

Friday, Oct. 18

8:30 Coach

9:10 Shakespeare — Othello

10:00 News In English

10:20 W.I.O.U.

Do The Wrong Thing

The main story of the news department is that of a young criminal who tried to rape an old woman and was beaten by the police to get his confession.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, Oct. 10

1913 — Atlantic and Pacific oceans are united by blowing up the Gamboa Dam of Panama Canal.

1938 — Nazi Germany completes occupation of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland.

1943 — Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek takes oath of office as president of China.

1963 — High Dam collapses near Belluno, Italy, and resulting flood kills an estimated 1,800 people.

1967 — Bolivia officials say they have confirmed that Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara has been killed in jungle fight with Bolivian troops.

1970 — Two masked men kidnap Quebec (Canada) Labour Minister Pierre Laporte from his front yard in Montreal. He is found dead a week later.

1971 — Death toll is put at more than 200 in hurricane that swept parts of Haiti, Cuba, Mexico and area of U.S. state of Florida.

1976 — Scores of left-wing students, professors and politicians are in hiding or flee country after military coup in Thailand.

1977 — Two Soviet cosmonauts, encountering trouble in docking with their space station, are ordered to return to Earth.

1980 — Thousands of casualties are reported following earthquake in Al. Asnan, Algeria.

Friday, Oct. 11

1828 — Russians occupy Varna in war against Turkey.

1915 — British nurse Edith Cavell is executed in Brussels during World War I.

1933 — Latin American countries sign Rio de Janeiro Non-Aggression Pact.

1963 — United Nations condemns repression in South Africa by 106-1 vote.

1967 — Bolivian officials

say body of slain guerrilla Che Guevara has been buried in secret grave.

1968 — Reports from Calcutta, India, say cyclone that struck Bay of Bengal left one-half million people homeless.

1972 — United States places restrictions on its pilots carrying out attacks in Hanoi area after three foreign missions in North Vietnam are damaged.

1976 — Reports from China say Mao Tse-Tung's widow and three others have been arrested.

Saturday, Oct. 12

1492 — Christopher Columbus discovers America.

1822 — Brazil becomes independent of Portugal.

1908 — South Africa constitutional convention meets in Durban.

1925 — Uprising in Syria

1934 — Peter II becomes King of Yugoslavia following assassination of his father, King Alexander.

1942 — American forces defeat Japanese in Battle of Cape Esperance on Guadalcanal in World War II.

1945 — Allied control council in Germany orders dissolution of Nazi Party after Wodtgar II.

1956 — Britain tells Israel it will assist Jordan if latter is attacked.

1960 — Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev upsets decorum of U.N. General Assembly by pounding desk with his shoe.

1962 — India's Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru says Indian army has been ordered to oust Chinese forces from Indian territory near Tibetan border.

1964 — Army forces take control in South Vietnam, ousting government of Major General Nguyen Khanh in bloodless coup.

1968 — Czech President Gustav Husak appoints new government following resignation of premier and his cabinet.

1989 — Rejecting democratic reforms, a high-ranking East German official says socialism will continue to dominate society.

1990 — Speaker of Egypt's parliament and four security men assassinated.

Sunday, Oct. 13

1923 — Ankara, formerly Angora, becomes new capital of Turkey.

1937 — Germany guarantees inviolability of Belgium.

1943 — Italy, during World War II, declares war on Germany—its former Axis partner.

1952 — Egypt reaches agreement with Sudan on Nile waters.

1965 — Congo's President Joseph Kasavubu dismisses 15-month-old government of Premier Moise Tshombe, and names Evariste Kira as new head of government.

1968 — New military government in Panama names civilian cabinet which includes members of major political factions.

1969 — Soviet Union sends third spacecraft into orbit in as many days. There are seven cosmonauts in space.

1970 — Canada and China announce they will establish diplomatic relations. Nationalist China promptly breaks ties with Canada.

1985 — Tamil guerrillas attack government troops in two ceasefire violations in Sri Lanka.

1987 — Costa Rica's President Oscar Arias Sanchez wins Nobel Peace Prize for sponsoring plan to end civil wars in central America.

1988 — Egyptian author Naguib Mahfouz becomes first Arabic-language writer to win Nobel Prize for Literature.

1989 — President George Bush says he "wouldn't mind using force" to oust Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega.

1990 — Lebanese army leader General Michel Aoun seeks asylum in French embassy in Lebanon following attack on his stronghold by Syrian forces.

Monday, Oct. 14

1066 — Normans under William the Conqueror defeat English at Battle of Hastings.

1806 — Napoleon Bonaparte defeats Prussia at Jena, and Saxony at Auerstadt.

1884 — The Mahdi takes Omdurman (Khartoum, Sudan).

1930 — Attempted fascist coup in Finland.

1933 — Germany leaves disarmament conference and League of Nations.

1936 — Belgium renounces military alliance with France.

1939 — British battleship Royal Oak is sunk in Scapa Flow with loss of 800 lives in World War II.

1944 — British and Greek troops liberate Athens from Germans in World War II.

1955 — Province of West Pakistan comes into being.

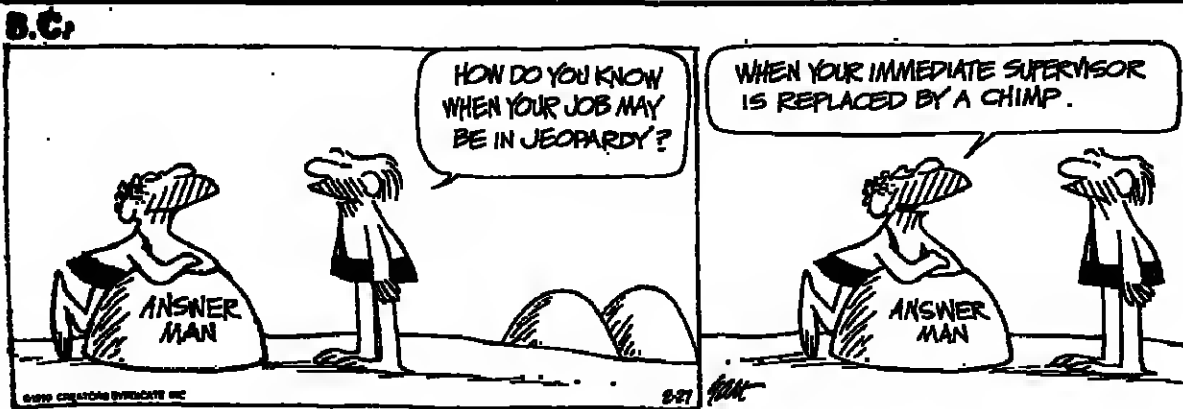
1967 — Communist terrorists in Hong Kong boost bomb casualties to 21 and kidnap British official.

1970 — Death toll in Philippines typhoon reaches 783.

1973 — Sanya Thammasak, university administrator, is named premier of Thailand after violent clashes between troops and students.

1988 — Yugoslav government announces wage increases to offset unpopular austerity programme.

By The Associated Press



Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

By Francesca Gee
Reuter

Spanish film festival pays tribute to perestroika directors

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain — An explosion of long pent-up creative fever among young Soviet filmmakers rocked the prestigious San Sebastian International Film Festival which ended recently.

"This is the best time ever for filmmakers in the Soviet Union," said "new wave" director Karen Shakhnazarov. They were now producing about 500 films a year, more than three times as many as they were making six years ago, he said.

The 39th edition of the festival included a special section dedicated to the small Kurier (messenger) Production House, which is run and part-financed by Shakhnazarov.

He took advantage of a

sweeping reorganisation of the well-known Mosfilm Studios in 1987 to set up Kurier.

Shakhnazarov decided to concentrate on helping promising young directors to make their first feature-length work. So far, he has produced a dozen films, five of which have been distributed abroad.

"Producing someone's first movie is always a big risk," said Predrag Golubovic, director of the Yugoslav Film Institute. "Kurier is significant because it is the one studio in the whole world that only produces first films."

Shakhnazarov himself told Reuters that Kurier's success reflects an outburst of vitality in Soviet cinema since state

censorship started crumbling with the advent of perestroika in 1985.

Comparatively low production costs — an average 1.5 million roubles or \$50,000 for a feature film compared with millions of dollars in the West — and the availability of funds from private investors have helped this renaissance, he said.

His own work, from controversial musicals in the early 1980s to probing meditations on his country's political past, bears witness to the recent changes in Russian cinema.

His latest film *Assassin Of The Tsar*, a reflection on the 1918 murder of the imperial

Russian family, stars British actor Malcolm McDowell in the first ever Soviet-Western co-production.

"I started as a director of musical comedies because it was the easiest way in those days to be honest, to do what you wanted," the 40-year-old Shakhnazarov said.

"But even in those films some scenes were cut. If you showed an old house, they would say, 'why are you criticising the Socialist system?' This house needs a new roof. Everything had to look perfect, everybody had to be happy."

"I had problems with one film (*Winter Evening In Gory*) because my hero died of a

heart attack. They said it was too pessimistic... as if people didn't die under socialism."

His work has won several international awards and *Assassin Of The Tsar*, which he says shows the Soviet system's first step on the road to Stalinist terror, was part of the official competition at this year's Cannes Festival.

Other Kurier directors have also done well, such as actress Elena Tsyplovskaya whose first movie as director, *Garden Of Heaven*, won the new directors' award at the San Sebastian Festival last year.

Shakhnazarov says his growing fame has helped him get bank loans to finance

Kurier movies after initial state subsidies dried up. "Finding money is not a big problem. There is a lot of money floating around in the Soviet Union at the moment and people are looking for places to invest it," he said. Some producers may even be unwittingly helping to launder ill-obtained funds, he said with a smile.

But Mosfilm's low production costs — which attract many Western directors to film in Moscow — are already rising, and the drive towards a market economy may drastically dampen creativity.

"This year it costs 1.5 million roubles (to make a film)

but three years ago when we started Kurier it was 400,000," Shakhnazarov said.

Foreign distributors are poised to enter the huge Soviet market and they want pictures that make money, he said. "Instead of the censorship of state we'll have the censorship of money."

While directors in the comparatively rich Russian Federation will probably be able to continue to work, their colleagues in smaller, poorer, breakaway republics may find it a lot harder, he said.

"Georgia has three million people and they were making 15 films a year thanks to (central government) subsidies. Now it has declared

independence and they won't have the money to make 15 films, it's impossible with such a small market."

Golubovic said that for many years the Soviet Union's huge but closed market — it has more cinemas than any other country — virtually guaranteed returns for investors in Soviet films.

But a surge in imported Western films and an increase in the number of television channels and the availability of video equipment are bound to cut revenue drastically, he said.

"It's a normal development. After decades of limitations there has been an explosion in filmmaking. Now a selection will take place. Soviet cinema will soon be in a situation similar to that of other countries."

Bad boy choreographer Morris thrives on love-hate in Europe

By Eva Kaluzynska
Reuter

BRUSSELS — American choreographer Mark Morris has shocked and horrified the Belgians — but he's coming back.

He caused outrage in Brussels by performing a striptease on stage, and insulting Belgium's favourite dance troupe.

Feted throughout the dance world as the most brilliant choreographer of his generation, Morris quit Brussels for New York this summer after a stormy three years as head of Belgium's National Dance Company.

But despite his bad-boy antics Morris has established himself as a top name in Europe and has been invited back to Brussels and Paris.

In Brussels, he will stage his *Hard Nut*, a revamp of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*

that was a hit for him last year in a city he slammed as narrow-minded and anti-gay. Paris will see his *Dido and Aeneas*.

He will also direct a new production of Mozart's opera *The Marriage Of Figaro* at the Theatre de la Monnaie in Brussels in December. This will be Morris's first major venture as opera director.

In the meantime, he is creating new work and hoping to pull in big enough crowds to keep his company afloat financially.

The Belgian capital provided Morris and his dancers with state-funded theatres, studios and money. Brussels became a showcase for productions that won ecstatic reviews from European critics.

"I have been able to work all day every day with all of my dancers. That's very unusual... it's been very good and very nourishing for my company," he said in an in-

terview shortly before he left.

But the Belgian public never learned to love the sharp-tongued, openly homosexual American dancer who stripped on stage in one of his early shows here and said the work of his predecessor, Frenchman Maurice Bejart, was dreadful.

Bejart quit Brussels after 27 years and took his company to Switzerland after a disagreement with Gerard Mortier, who runs the Monnaie Theatre. Mortier has now demonstrated his faith in Morris by asking him back as a guest.

A star at 19, Morris worked with leading choreographers including Twyla Tharp before forming his own company in 1980.

Tall and powerfully built, with a mane of black curly hair and piercing blue eyes, he is the biggest man in his company and looks un-

gainly until he steps into a role.

Morris, a chain-smoker, is philosophical about hostility from some dance fans.

But he is less forgiving about the critic from the daily Belgian newspaper *Le Soir*, Charles Philippin, who gave Morris's first show, *L'Allegro*, II Penseroso Ed Il Moderato a rave review, then declared war on the American.

"Mark Morris, go home" was one of Philippin's early messages, in English to make sure Morris got the point. "Vulgar... a staggering lack of imagination" was his verdict.

"That asshole Philippin. You may quote me. So he loooooooved *Allegro*, then the next review he took all that back, like 'I didn't know what I was doing. I accidentally liked this thing from this talented, idiotic American savage'," Morris said.

Germany pays homage to Ernst

By Steve James
Reuter

DUESSELDORF, GERMANY — Painter Max Ernst, adored by the Avant-Garde and reviled by the Nazis as a degenerate, is finally reaping praise in the homeland he deserted for the more artistically fertile soil of Paris, New York and Arizona.

"Dada Max" who embraced dadaism and surrealism in a long career, even has Germany's two rival art centres fighting to honour one of the most influential German artists of the 20th century.

"In comparison with Picasso, (Max) Beckmann or Matisse, Ernst is still little known — 70 per cent of his works are in private hands," said Armin Zweite, director of Dusseldorf's North Rhine Westphalia Museum which is staging a major Ernst retrospective to mark the centenary of his birth.

The Dusseldorf show includes some 200 paintings

and sculptures that Ernst produced right up to his death in 1976. It has already been to London's Tate Gallery and Stuttgart and will be exhibited at the Pompidou Centre in Paris at the end of the year.

The rival Ludwig Museum in Cologne, which houses one of Europe's finest collections of modern art, has also staged an Ernst exhibition. "Maybe with this centennial people will come to realise how important an artist Max Ernst was in the 20th century," said Gerhard Kolberg, curator of the Ludwig Museum.

His show concentrated on the period the artist spent in France after leaving his home near Cologne in 1922 until escaping an internment camp in France in 1941 for New York.

The centrepiece of the Cologne exhibit was Ernst's famous "Reunion Des Amis," a huge 1923 painting containing portraits of Ernst himself and his friends in

Paris who formed the core of the surrealist movement.

Ernst's searching of the inner recesses of the mind when dreaming or between sleep and waking, resulted in some of the most striking and bizarre artistic images of the century.

The Cologne exhibit included not only paintings, drawings and letters by Ernst but works by his fellow surrealists — such as poet Paul Eluard, painters Andre Breton and Giorgio Chirico and photographer Man Ray.

Cinemas are reviving a documentary film by director Peter Schamoni, entitled "Max Ernst — My Wandering, My Restlessness."

In one scene in Provence in 1963, the self-effacing artist shows his lack of interest for the rewards of art. "I love a wild strawberry more than all the laurels of the world," he says.

Critics agree Ernst was more of an intellectual than other famous 20th century

modern artists.

"He was not as popular as Picasso, Miro or Dali, because he was more academic. Max Ernst was also a cynic," said Alfred Welti, senior editor of Germany's Art magazine.

According to Werner Spies, the art professor who put together the Dusseldorf retrospective, Ernst despised the bourgeois art establishment in Cologne, Paris and New York.

"Everybody loves everybody's expressionists, but they turn their backs with disgust at the brilliant drawings in the pissoirs," Ernst once wrote.

Cologne's Kolberg had this assessment: "He was a terrible painter at first, but he learned. More important were his ideas and new techniques."

It was after military service during World War I that Ernst turned to the Dada school that was agitating for a new art.

Felix de Weldon — a maker of giants

By Philippe Neave

NEWPORT, Rhode Island — Felix de Weldon is a diminutive man, but he has never considered this a problem. He sees himself in the same league as the Napoleons and Julius Caesars of this world: small men do great works.

What matters is thinking big: De Weldon has earned a worldwide reputation for his colossal sculptures that tower above the inhabitants of dozens of capitals around the globe. Of the 1,200 or so monuments de Weldon has created, the two Jima war memorial in Washington D.C. depicting World War II

soldiers planting the American flag, is among the best known. It stands 48 feet high (16 metres), the size of a five-story building.

De Weldon, whose works can be found in 44 American states, is currently working on another megaproject for a Korean War Memorial to be erected in California. On a more personal note, he sculpted the official coronation busts of Kings George V and VI of Britain, he has immortalised Churchill, Lloyd George and Allenby and has also sculpted the heads of American Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Carter and Reagan.

"Being small is an advantage because the brain is always the same size. My brain is large in relation to my body; the brain of a 6-foot-tall man wouldn't be any larger than mine," said De Weldon in an exclusive interview in his Newport mansion. The mansion itself is monumental. Built in 1889 for the Morgan banking family, Beacon Rock overlooks the famous Newport Harbour and boasts 18 bathrooms, 14 fireplaces and extensive grounds. Once the venue of some of the most lavish parties in this fashionable seaside resort, the house is crammed full of exquisite furniture, including the writing desk of Britain's King George III and an extensive art collection that includes works by Degas, Romney, Renoir, Durer and Gainsborough.

The house has gone quiet these days. Since the death of his beautiful wife Margot four years ago the house, nicknamed "the Acropolis of Newport" because of its neo-classic Greek style, is as soundless and seemingly peaceful as the hundreds of sailboats gliding in the harbour below. Yet De Weldon is far from living the life of a recluse. "I am invited out to every meal," he says, to explain why he let the cook, butler and other servants go. Despite a hectic social life, De Weldon rises with the birds and works many hours a day in the property's stables that he has converted into a studio. He is currently working on the model of the colossus of Rhodes, commissioned by the Greek-American Community. De Weldon's statue, to be 128 feet high (42 metres), will tower above the Mediterranean on a cliff where the fabled colossus built by the ancient Greeks and considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World is supposed to have stood.

"You can't enlarge just any sculpture and make it monumental. It has to be designed specifically for the large scale. It has to fit in with the landscape and setting. This requires not only the gift of creating, but also great knowledge of perspective, engineering, landscape architecture, anatomy, and the technical know-how of making the model and casting it in bronze," De Weldon explains. He considers that one of his major feats is the national Independence Monument in Malaysia, a structure depicting a group of triumphant people, erected in 1966. The 32 feet figures, weighing between 12 and 16 tonnes, were each cast in a single piece at a foundry in Rome, where De Weldon spends most winters working in his large adjacent studio. The *Fondaria Artistica Francesco Bruni*, one of the oldest foundries in the world, has been used by the likes of Picasso and Henry Moore.

"Their casting is utter perfection, you don't find a pin-hole anywhere, it comes out absolutely smooth. I think it is the best in the world," says De Weldon, who is planning to have the Rhodes Colossus cast there.

De Weldon started his career at 16 when he won a \$250,000 prize for the design of a monument in his native Austria. He later studied anatomy and psychology — "to know the body and the mind," he says — at Vienna University and furthered his art studies in Rome, Greece and Egypt where he spent several years. His fee for a bust is about \$15,000. "Monuments run into hundreds of thousands of dollars or even millions," he notes.

While monuments often involve years of work, De Weldon can sculpt a head in just hours. A face comes alive with incredible speed under his hands as he deftly carves away slivers of clay. "My sculptures look alive because my models are alive," he says.

Executed in the finest classical style, De Weldon's sculptures are refined and elegant, but at the same time vibrant with feelings and seemingly ready to step into our world. Each detail, a fingernail, a lock of hair, a crease in the skin where a hand is bent, add to the aura of life he gives his subjects. In his studio, a small-scale statue of Lady Godiva on her horse shows the compassionate queen carried off by her horse, every muscle in the animal's body carved so precisely that the statue exudes at the same time tremendous energy and weightlessness. In recent years De Weldon has showed a predilection for sculpting very beautiful young women with long hair.

Pretty girls also surround him in real life, flocking to him at parties. Despite his age — a closely guarded secret, but pegged at 84 — he is often seen living it up in smart restaurants until dawn. "I'm getting younger every day," he laughs, "age is only in the minds of other people. Time is something that has been invented by human beings because the human race cannot comprehend anything too big, so people divide everything into little bits. I don't remember when I was born, I was too young. Age is only a statistic. You are as young as you think. You are as old as you are stupid."

De Weldon has little patience for stupidity: "Most people only use three to 10 per cent of their capabilities. Very few use 50 per cent. The exceptional people use 99 per cent. I only use 98 per cent!" He sails his yacht, or drives around in one of his five cars for relaxation and adds that he follows the old adage that sets a priority on "wine, women and song."

"I keep to the motto, except for the fact that I don't drink, because I don't need to," De Weldon quips. "Other people drink to lose their inhibitions. I

don't have any inhibitions. I never smoked, I never drank, but don't ask what else I did. The only vices I know are vice presidents, vice-chairmen, vice-chancellors."

De Weldon, who speaks six languages fluently, still travels extensively, dividing his time between summers in Newport, a palatial home in Washington, D.C., and a substantial ranch in Virginia. Rome and Paris are also visited yearly. He was knighted by the British and can legitimately call himself Lord De Weldon, but never does: "I don't need to, I impress people with my sculptures!"

He also impresses them with his unusual domestic arrangements. Since his wife could not have children, De Weldon set about finding somebody suitable with whom he could carry on the family name. "My family goes back to the 11th century, so I wanted to have an heir," he explains. He got more than he bargained for. It turned out that the young lady elected for the task was living with another young lady so, in order to keep them both happy, he had a child with each. The two boys, Byron and Daniel, respectively 21 and 20 are both attractive, but that is about all they share.

Byron, who summers at Beacon Rock, lives along his father's motto to the full and spends much of his time cruising around in his BMW. After a year at Harvard, he dropped out. "My father is a great inspiration for me," he says. He clearly shows some talent for sculpting but his ambitions lie elsewhere. "I want to stop all the suffering on this planet," he explains rather grandly, adding that he has set up a firm called "The Better Living Company" to do environmental clean-ups.

Daniel is as shy and soft-spoken as his brother is flamboyant. He works during the summer painting houses in

Washington where he lives on his own. Although his father, who has many friends in high places, pulled all the strings to get him into the country's top naval academy, Daniel is planning to go to university to study dentistry. "He wants to torture people," grunts De Weldon.

Both young men had better carve out their own careers because De Weldon does not believe in making it too easy by handing over the fruits of his life's work on a silver platter. Most of his money is likely to go to a charitable foundation and the Beacon Rock house will probably become a museum. "They have to prove themselves, like I had to do when I was their



Felix de Weldon is currently working on a model of the Colossus of Rhodes which, when finished, will be 128 feet high and will tower above the Mediterranean on a cliff where the original Colossus is supposed to have once stood.

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Felix de Weldon (right) is seen here with his son Byron who, although not yet certain that he wants to follow in his father's footsteps, clearly shows some talent for sculpting as demonstrated by this commissioned example of his work.

Genetic defect tied to alcoholism may tie to other disorders—study

By Lindsey Tanner
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — A genetic defect that some researchers have linked to alcoholism appears to play a similar role in other behavioural disorders, a study says.

This is the first research linking the mutation to Tourette's Syndrome and other mental illnesses, says the author of an editorial accompanying the study in the latest *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

But another study in the

Journal found no evidence that the defect is associated with alcoholism. Its lead author, a Yale University psychiatrist professor, was sceptical about the results showing a link to behavioural disorders.

"They will be exceptionally important if they can be replicated, but until then I don't think people should get too excited," said Dr. Joel Gelernter of Yale Medical School.

The gene involved is believed to play a key role in experiencing pleasure. At

issue is whether the presence of a genetic marker known as "A1 Allele" on that gene predisposes a person to alcoholism or other behavioural disorders.

The study that found a link involved 314 non-Hispanic whites and was led by Dr. David E. Comings, genetics director at City of Hope National Medical Centre in Duarte, California.

The A1 Allele was present in more than two-fifths of the 147 alcoholics studied and the 147 patients with Tourette's Syndrome, a disorder marked by involuntary jerky

movements and uncontrollable vocal outbursts including grunts and profanity.

The marker also was present in about half the 104 patients with an attention deficit disorder and the 33 patients with autism.

It also was believed to play a role in post-traumatic stress disorder and drug abuse, Dr. Comings said, noting that the incidence of the marker was higher in patients with the most severe symptoms.

The marker was present in 14.5 per cent of the 69 patients known not to be alcoholics and free of the other

disorders.

"These results suggest that the A1 Allele... is associated with a number of behavior disorders in which it may act as a modifying gene rather than as the primary cause," the researchers wrote.

"By this we mean that other yet-to-be-discovered genes are the primary cause" of the disorders studied, they wrote. "If an individual carrying one or more of these genes happens, by chance, also to inherit the modifying gene, the symptoms are likely to be more severe."

The study stems from previous research in which Dr. Comings studied whether a single yet-to-be-discovered gene caused Tourette's Syndrome and several other behavioural disorders.

In a study published in *Jama* in April 1990, researchers said they had pinpointed for the first time a high association between the A1 Allele and alcoholism.

"We didn't postulate that it was the cause... we postulated that it was definitely playing a role in causing the risk for becoming an alcoholic," said Dr. Kenneth Blum,

a co-leader of that research and chief of addictive diseases at the University of Texas Health Science Centre at San Antonio.

Dr. Blum said Dr. Comings' findings are "very supportive" of his research.

Dr. Robert Cloninger, professor of psychiatry and genetics at Washington University in St. Louis, said Dr. Comings' study is the first to show that the A1 Allele "can influence susceptibility to a number of other disorders."

Dr. Cloninger said the gelernter study — one of two to

discount the alcoholism link since Dr. Blum's report — was flawed because it excluded alcoholic patients with acute medical problems, who may have been more likely to have the genetic mutation.

Dr. Gelernter and colleagues found A1 Allele among about a fifth of both 44 white alcoholics and a randomly selected control group of 68 whites.

"The evidence to date suggests that the association is weak and therefore will not be convincingly established until very large samples are studied," they wrote.

Researchers find genetic basis for form of inherited Alzheimer's disease

By Paul Reecer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Researchers studying three generations of a family with Alzheimer's disease have isolated a mutated gene that may trigger one form of the brain disorder, giving new evidence that it can be passed from one generation to another.

Researchers at the Indiana University School of Medicine examined blood, tissue and clinical histories of 30 members of an Indiana family over three generations and found that those who suffered from Alzheimer's all had an alteration in a single gene on Chromosome 21.

Jill Murrell, a co-author of the study, said Thursday that the finding provides a genetic basis for a type of Alzheimer's disease that starts at an early age, but a link between the gene and the disease that occurs randomly after the age of 65 has not been established.

Familial, or inherited, Alzheimer's disease accounts for between 15 to 20 per cent of the 250,000 new American cases of the disease diagnosed annually, Dr. Mur-

rell said that only some forms of inherited Alzheimer's disease start at an early age.

The disease is a fatal disorder of the brain that involves the progressive death of brain cells. The disease is marked by the steady, irreversible erosion of memory and ability to reason. Finally, brain function is destroyed and death results.

One of the prime markers of the disease is the deposit in the brain of a substance called Amyloid. In the Indiana study, researchers found a mutation in the gene that leads to production of this substance.

Dr. Gene Cohen, acting director of the National Institute of Aging, said the Indiana finding was "very important" in the effort to diagnose and combat the disease.

"It adds to an understanding of the cascade of events that go on in Alzheimer's disease," he said. "The more steps in this sequence that we can identify, the better are our opportunities to intervene at some point."

In a study published in the *Journal of Science*, the Indiana researchers report they found evidence in three family gen-

erations of a mutation in a gene that causes the body to make a chemical called "Amyloid precursor protein." This chemical is an early step in forming Amyloid, which is a prominent feature of Alzheimer's disease.

"Affected members of this family show clinical onset of the disease with short-term memory problems in their 40s," the study said. "Other cognitive difficulties develop

as the disease gradually progresses. Disease duration is typically seven years."

Dr. Murrell said the investigators found that in the American history of the family, the disease appeared in the father in the first generation. She said he died at the age of 57.

In the second generation, three of nine children died before age 60 of the disease. All three developed symptoms of the disease in mid-

life. The three died at ages 49, 48 and 53.

Tissue samples from those patients had been saved and Dr. Murrell said a genetic analysis found the Amyloid precursor protein mutation in each patient. An analysis of samples from the five surviving siblings, however, showed no mutation.

In the third generation, said Dr. Murrell, the mutation has been found in a 44-year-old man who already

has developed Alzheimer's dementia. She said samples from the fourth and youngest generation have been taken, but she declined to give the results.

The disease may go even further back in this family's history, she said.

"The family is originally from Romania and we believe there are brothers and sisters back there who were affected," said Dr. Murrell. She said plans are being

made to research the Romanian arm of the family.

Dr. Murrell said that isolating the gene mutation does not mean it is the sole cause of Alzheimer's. She said the disease is a complex process that may involve a number of other genes.

"We're not quite sure what this mutation does in the cascade of changes that leads to Alzheimer's," she said. Investigators now are attempting to put this muta-

tion into laboratory rats. This could lead to establishing a model of familial Alzheimer's in rats, enabling researchers to test drugs that could slow or block development of the disease, said Dr. Murrell.

Other researchers in the study were Martin Farlow, Bernardino Ghetti and Merrill D. Benson.

Science, which published the study, is the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Anti-virus drug relieves chronic fatigue syndrome

By Daniel Q. Haney
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — An experimental anti-virus drug can dramatically relieve the extreme tiredness, memory loss and other debilitating problems of people severely afflicted with chronic fatigue syndrome, researchers said.

Doctors tested the medicine on people so gravely ill that they often were virtually bedridden, unable to get up to use the bathroom, balance

checkbooks or even watch television.

The study showed that injections of the medicine — Ampligen — restored patients enough so they had the strength to take care of themselves and think more clearly, although many still showed some effects of the disease. The medicine is the first to have any proven impact on the mysterious illness.

Dr. William A. Carter of Hahnemann University of Philadelphia, co-inventor of

Ampligen, presented the findings at an American Society for Microbiology meeting.

Besides opening the possibility of a treatment for the disorder, the research also provides clues to its cause. It suggests that viruses are ultimately responsible for the illness, but the body's own response to the infection may make the symptoms much worse.

The just-finished study was a last-minute addition to the Society's annual meeting on infectious diseases, and organizers said this indicated its potential impact.

"We don't accept late presentations very often, but we did this because it was so important," said Dr. Clyde Thornberry of Vanderbilt University, vice chairman of the programme committee.

Although the disease may have been around for hundreds of years, current concern about the illness emerged after doctors in Incline Village, a resort on Lake Tahoe in Nevada, witnessed an unusual cluster of people with unexplained fatigue in 1984.

When similar cases turned up elsewhere, many doctors dismissed it as part of a psychological disorder, perhaps depression. For a time, it was disparagingly called "yuppie flu."

Now, the disease is taken seriously. In the latest study, doctors at four hospitals tested Ampligen on 92 people whose lives had been ruined by chronic fatigue syndrome. Half received Ampligen injections for up to six

months. The rest got placebo shots.

Before treatment, the patients needed custodial care. They could not cook, shop or reliably perform the simplest household tasks.

"As a result of Ampligen therapy, the typical patient went from needing help most of the time to only needing help now and then for sustained tasks, such as cutting the grass," said Dr. Carter. "The routine activities of living completely turned around by use of the drug."

Those in the comparison group were unchanged dur-

ing the study period.

Besides debilitating fatigue, many patients complain of memory loss and trouble concentrating, as well as frequent headaches, joint pain and other flu-like symptoms.

Dr. Anthony Komaroff of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, an authority on the syndrome, cautioned that the study does not settle several important issues, such as whether benefits last when treatment is stopped and whether there are unwanted side effects of long-term use of Ampligen.

"To me, the most interesting aspects of the study is that whether this turns out to be a useful long-term treatment or not, by seeming to show an effect, it clearly implies that there is an immunological or viral cause to this illness," Dr. Komaroff said. "There is no way this medicine is treating a psychological disorder."

In the study, doctors found that victims had elevated levels of Interleukin-1, an immune system chemical that prompts the body to make antibodies to fight infections.

The researchers theorise that the body may make dangerously high levels of this and perhaps other related chemicals to fight a chronic viral infection. And it is the natural chemicals, not the virus, that cause the symptoms of chronic fatigue syndrome.

Dr. Carter said the researchers took brain scans that revealed tiny holes in the brains of victims of the disorder. Some had 30, 40, even 50 holes in the frontal area of the brain that deals with memory and other intellectual functions.

Just how these holes might be involved in the disease is unclear, although Dr. Carter speculated that they could somehow result from overproduction of immune system chemicals.

Dr. Komaroff reported the presence of similar holes two years ago. He said they also seemed to occur, though less frequently, in brains of healthy people.

Ampligen is made by Hem Pharmaceuticals in Rockville, Maryland.

Housewives most likely to suffer from 'yuppie flu'

SYDNEY (R) — Housewives are more likely to suffer from chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS), commonly known as "yuppie flu," than any other group; according to an Australian medical expert.

"Women suffer more because they spend more time around the home, where no safety rules apply, unlike the workplace," said Dr. Mark Donohue, director of Sydney's Environmental Medicine Centre.

At home there are no rules limiting the time spent exposed to domestic cleaning chemicals and pesticides. Allergies to dustmites in the home were another problem, according to Dr. Donohue.

"It is not a case of a bored housewife making out she has something wrong with her, CFS symptoms start from the continued exposure to her domestic environment," Dr. Donohue said.

He presented the findings of his research on CFS to a recent convention of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners in Hobart, on the island state of Tasmania.

Up to 40,000 Australians are believed to suffer from CFS, which mainly affects women in their 30s, although patients range from 11 to 70 years old, according to Dr. Donohue.

Dr. Donohue said his research also showed that CFS affected the brain and nervous system before attacking the immune system.

By Catherine Arnet
Reuter

Asthma doctors warn against overuse of inhaled drugs

BRUSSELS — An international group of asthma specialists have said that overuse of inhaled drugs most widely prescribed for the disease may be making patients worse and contributing to a rising death rate.

Members of the newly formed International Asthma Council told a news conference that between 1983 and 1990 the worldwide use of such drugs increased by 30 per cent, while the death rate from asthma increased by up to 60 per cent in industrialised nations.

Professor Sebastiano Bianco of Milan's Institute of Respiratory Disorders said that the reliance on bronchodilators, and particularly a common type called Beta2-Agonists, "is cause for great concern, as recent studies have linked the over-reliance

on these drugs to increased morbidity and mortality."

The council's warning is the latest development in a growing controversy over Beta2-Agonists, inhaled drugs which asthmatics take to relieve the symptoms of an attack.

Several medical studies in recent years have linked the use of Beta2-Agonists, including the widely used brands Berotec by Boehringer Ingelheim and Ventolin by Glaxo Holdings Plc, to a possible worsening of the chronic respiratory disease in some patients.

However, other asthma specialists attending a Euro-

pean Respiratory Society meeting in Brussels said there was still no conclusive data linking Beta2-Agonists with the rising death rate.

Professor Romain Pauwels of Belgium told the conference that it was not clear that patients who die while using the drugs would not have died anyway, since they were the most seriously ill.

"It is important not to overreact. A lot of patients are helped by these drugs," Prof. Pauwels said.

Both Prof. Pauwels and the asthma council emphasised that the first line of treatment for asthma should be medication that treats the underlying

inflammation, usually with inhaled steroids.

However, the Asthma Council, made up of 15 leading asthma specialists from eight countries, said that this relatively new approach to tackling asthma is not that common among family doctors, who treat some 75 per cent of all asthmatics.

Asthma is the world's most common chronic disease, affecting some five to 10 per cent of the population in industrialised countries. But unlike every other disease, both the death rate and incidence has steadily increased over the past two decades despite better treatments, diagnosis and understanding of its causes.

Consequently, doctors are looking at asthma drugs to determine if they may be worsening the problem, possibly by masking the underlying seriousness of the disease.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

AS TIME GOES BY
By Dorothy Martin

ACROSS
1 Monoplane desert
5 Go by
9 Norman
10 Vest
14 Strip of wood
18 Males
19 USDI mountain
20 range
21 Desert refuge
22 Presure for
23 money exchange
24 Disobedience out
25 blazon —
26 Dictator's aide
27 Gold rush name
28 Antelope
29 Day
30 Sounded
31 "Webside"
32 Dr. get
33 Hamlet crosses
34 the
35

DOWN
1 Octane
2 Keweenaw
3 Author Harle
4 Case
5 Dabbed
6 — Baba
7 — it suffer
8 — at me (Miley)
9 US author
10 Birds of prey
11 Onions
12 "Sweetish"
13 Double curve
14 Most modern
15 Rapping factor
16 Prong
17 Thug
18 Corral
19 Nasty activity

Diagramless 17 X 17, By Craig Schultz

ACROSS
1 Fashionable
2 resists
3 Wind instrument
4 in addition
5 Similar
6 Mac food
7 Seed covering
8 Strap weights
9 Received
10 Flares roads
11 — Ave
12 Capitol Hill
13 person abstr.

DOWN
1 Rested
2 Brak
3 Scarf
4 — or later
5 Indian
6 Noblemen
7 Leave out
8 Mory or conger
9 Thick slice
10 Sebeck or
11 Cruise
12 Ama — amat

22 US president
23 Cey on the
24 Mission
25 Wholly absorbed
26 Earthquake pot
27 Estate house
28 Hold up
29 Amphibian
30 Merchandise on
31 hand
32 On one's —
33 (later)
34 Uses an av

18 Speak violently
19 Type of Western
20 Go lower
21 Advantageous
22 Skin cream
23 ingredient
24 Defect
25 Small boys
26 Current support
27 Extinguishes
28 Affirmative
29 answer

34 Envelope abstr.
35 Project
36 Soft soap
37 Jose or Buddy
38 Vestment
39 Parsi river
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42 One who
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48 Day
49 Sounded
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52 Dr. get
53 Hamlet crosses
54 the
55

40 US patriot
41 High point
42 — contemners
43 Start
44 Close-mouthed
45 Misanthropy
46 Wicked Biblical
47 city
48 Ballet attire
49 Figure out
50 Escape slowly

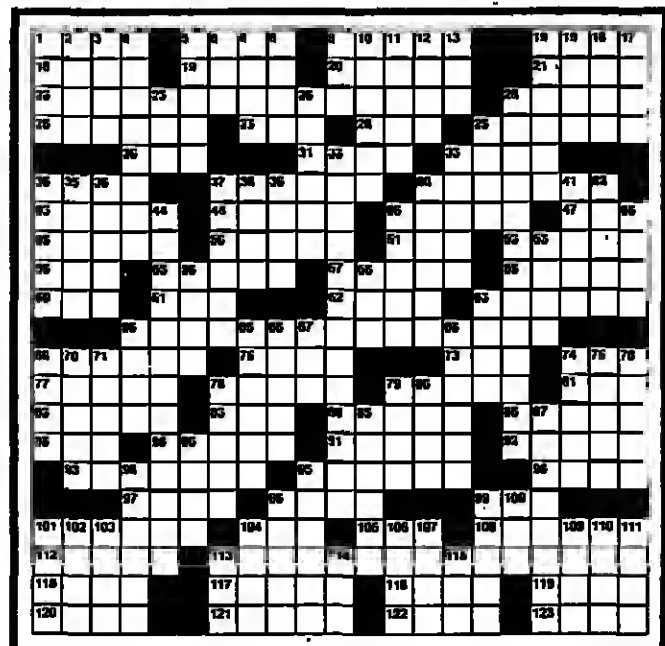
36 — Tibi
37 (Heyward)
38 Brother up
40 Disorderly
41 Crowded
42 Exhausted
43 Loch — monster
44 Doves stage work
45 Breasting lect
46 One of a matched
47 Out of work

62 Otello's "tremor"
63 Burlesque
64 Vernon Duke
65 — (Alamy)
66 Scaras
67 Poetic look
68 — Mayron
69 Soft-axe
70 Male law
71 Gilded the
72 S. Am. grasshopper
73 Part of PWE
74 Power D'Trade film
75 Ring, river
76 friend, Alan
77 architecture
78 Proust
79 Lowest point
80 Decade
81 Rapids' mates
82 Vase letters
83 Move effortlessly
84 Professions

56 Dampers
57 Dress leader
58 Grasp
59 Sweet sea
60 Comedy Jerry
61 Designates
62 Gravel
63 Old — (film)
64 Anno, amas...
65 Put on cargo
66 Spoken
67 Carrot
68 Hair
69 Brush men
70 Shrewd
71 Johnson
72 "A good man is
73 — and"
74 Fridge
75 Peas or almond

61 Onchusa
62 "Haw"
63 Agreement
64 Railways
65 Horse head
66 Marvel
67 Noblemen
68 — Karama
69 Horse god
70 Legal paper
71 Prating measures

56 Dampers
57 Dress leader
58 Grasp
59 Sweet sea
60 Comedy Jerry
61 Designates
62 Gravel
63 Old — (film)
64 Anno, amas...
65 Put on cargo
66 Spoken
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68 Hair
69 Brush men
70 Shrewd
71 Johnson
72 "A good man is
73 — and"
74 Fridge
75 Peas or almond

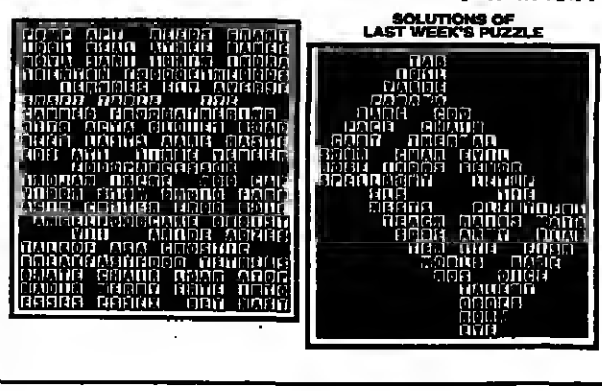


Last Week's Cryptograms

1. It seems when a man retires, he feels a compulsion to teach his wife how to keep house. (P.S.: It wasn't work!)
2. Freshwater fishermen waded into streams, tried for catch of catfish.
3. Grumpy college professor moans: "My classes unfortunately are not foolproof error-free groups."
4. If the circus fat lady were to wed an old circus roustabout, would their baby be a roustabout?

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. IDU WDU YDU ZMTALQU YDU RPW
AMGDAS, ITWU-ZAPOODL ODU PQUM URD
GDU BDU.
—By Barbara J. Rugg
2. TOICIX RINOEAZ RVA SZSISZP SIX TZ
AZBZZWZS NX I VVWZXC VR PSSZFP.
—By Gordon Miller
3. DOK GP BALASGYBSGBY DRMGYC GY
WHGHS WHYAYK MYSDY HP LOA
"PLISARY PISCARY"
—By Ed Buddleson
4. DUGEX DIU LSEAY SEANASUX RUGNLY
RINGS RANGS.
—By Frank N. Stele





Clear blue waters and golden sands are an irresistible attraction to Jordan's Red Sea resort of Aqaba (file photo)

Sea and sands of Aqaba regain their charm, lure tourists

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Deserted beaches and vacant hotels in Aqaba for over eight months during the Gulf crisis will be something of a nightmare that is best forgotten if present signs are any indication. Jordanian officials and tour operators are highly optimistic that the sun and sand of the Red Sea port as well as the distinct landmarks of history in Jordan would regain their magnetism and put the Kingdom back on the tourism map of the world as the season gets fully under way.

Aqaba has already entered what promises to be a busy season with the arrival of two Finnish tourist groups and others scheduled to arrive aboard chartered flights in the course of the next eight months.

"Things are looking a little brighter now, and business is picking up slowly but surely" — that is how Abdul Karim Kabariti, the minister of tourism and antiquities, prefers to describe the situation.

"What people needed was a reassurance that things are intact and everything is back to normal in Jordan," said Mr. Kabariti, pointing out that Finnish demand for bookings Aqaba went up in a matter of few days after the arrival of the first group in late September.

The Ministry of Tourism, in conjunction with Royal Jordanian and European tour operators, is in the middle of a concerted campaign to project Jordan as a tourism destination and restate confidence in tourists and tour operators that the Kingdom is very much as stable and quiet as it used to be.

Tourist facilities in Aqaba resembled a ghost town in November last year, following massive cancellations of hotel bookings against the backdrop of fears of war in the region following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the massive Western military build-up in the Gulf. One of the main contributors to these fears were also

media-suggested scenarios of the Israeli army poised to attack the port.

Except for the odd journalists who visited the city to report on the situation there and the effects of the international embargo against Iraq on the port which served as the main transit point for Iraq-bound goods, the dozens of hotels there did little business.

"At one point, we had just one guest for three weeks," said the manager of a leading hotel at Aqaba. "That was a climbdown from the five or six guests we used to have at any given point during the Gulf crisis," he added, preferring anonymity.

"Now we are almost full, and we have almost full bookings until end of March," he said. "Although it might take more than one season to recoup our losses, we are confident that the situation will be back to normal soon."

The ironic observation of another hotel manager in Aqaba was that the tension in the Middle East during the Gulf crisis and the war that followed could even have been a blessing in disguise.

"Those who had not heard of Aqaba heard of it during the Gulf crisis when everyone focused on the port as the main transit point to Iraq and described how Aqaba's port facilities were idle and how trucks were parked along its streets after being deprived of cargo for Iraq," he said.

"Somewhere along the lines were also descriptions of how the sunny beaches of Aqaba were deserted in a marked contrast with the usual throng during the season," he asserted. "Perhaps this has helped to let people know that there is a country called Jordan and it has a port called Aqaba with unique attractions," he added. "More importantly, these attractions are as intact as ever now."

"All it needs now is to tell those people Aqaba is alive and kicking and ready to receive them," he said.

George Bawab, general manager of Near East Tourist

(NET) agency which has lined up dozens of tourist groups to visit Jordan this season, believes that the message of "Aqaba is alive and kicking" is being sent by tourists already at the port city.

He said that the number of bookings went up from 30 to 190 for the second charter flight from Finland to Aqaba in the first week of October.

"Undoubtedly, those who arrived here on the first flight informed others that things were as normal as ever and Jordan was as stable as ever," Mr. Bawab said. "That is the best advertising one could hope for," he added.

In general, according to Mr. Bawab, "it is very promising and we hope 1991-1992 season will be another booming year like 1989."

Although the focus of tourism in Jordan somehow remains on Aqaba, the attractions at the ancient rose-red city of Petra, the desert castles along the old caravan routes and the historical ruins in the Kingdom are all part of the package that Jordanian tour operators offer.

"Innovative tours" involving desert treks at night and visits to historical sites and ruins are also being revived after being shelved during the Gulf crisis.

The best indicator yet of the shape of things for tourism — the second largest earner of foreign currency for Jordan — came when the Kingdom edged out six other countries as the venue for a convention of Italian tour operators in April 1992.

"It is a vote of tourist confidence in Jordan," said Mr. Kabariti, pointing out that the tourist convention will lead to enhanced Italian interest in Jordan beyond the 700 to 1,000 tour operators who will attend the gathering and gain a first-hand experience of how things are like for tourists visiting the Kingdom.

Mr. Bawab, who expects NET alone to bring in a minimum of 24,000 tourists to Jordan during this season, said the

Kingdom had assumed the slot of a "destination on its own" for tourists — a shift away from its traditional role as a "mere gateway to the holy Land" across the River Jordan.

According to Mr. Bawab as well as other tour operators who focus more on "Holy Land packages," tourists used to spend one day in Jordan — mostly visiting and Nabataean city of Petra — before crossing the river and a few hours on their way back to catch return flights home.

With the beginning of the Palestinian intifada in December 1987, fears ran high that the scenes of violent demonstrations and reports of instant Israeli curfews in the occupied territories would frighten off tourists and deprive Jordan of its share of the traffic to the Holy Land.

"But now Jordan is indeed a destination of its own for tourists" without any linkage to Jerusalem and other parts of the Holy Land, said Mr. Bawab.

"Jordan is still a virgin. It has not been spoilt like other destinations in the region," he said. "The people are friendly and we don't rip off the tourists."

Officials and businessmen are also confident that the ongoing moves and prospects for peace in the Middle East would extend great help to the tourism industry of the region. "We hope that the peace process will create an atmosphere of relaxation and tranquility conducive to tourism," said Minister Kabariti.

The spirits are also high of tour operators who saw the tourist traffic across the River Jordan dwindle over the years.

"God willing, the peace process will lead into regional stability and do away with the stigma of violence that has clouded tourism in the Middle East for years," said George Masreki, general manager of Apollo Tours and Travels, which arranges "Holy Land" as well as a destination Jordan packages.

Israel brushes aside U.S. concern

(Continued from page 1)

all understand that," Mr. Arens added.

Israel drew condemnation in 1981 after it bombed and destroyed an Iraqi nuclear reactor.

The Washington Post reported in its Wednesday edition that the Bush administration, in a message to Mr. Shamir, had warned such flights risked a new military confrontation with Iraq that could interfere with U.N. efforts to disarm the Iraqi government.

It said the Israeli flights were apparently reconnaissance missions over a section of western Iraq where additional Scud missiles and launchers were discovered after the Gulf war.

U.N. inspectors have been hunting for any remaining Iraqi Scuds and launchers.

The Israeli overflight and the U.S. complaint coincide with strains over the Bush administration's effort to delay consideration of an Israeli request for \$10 billion in housing loan

guarantees.

The Iraqi complaint said four Israeli F-15 warplanes were in Iraqi airspace for 30 minutes last Friday as part of a campaign to humiliate Iraq.

The violations, it said, confirm "the bellicose and expansionist character of Israel."

A letter from Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Hassan Khudayer to Mr. Perez de Cuellar requested him to intervene and "immediately to take all necessary measures to put an end to these violations."

The letter, dated Sunday but released Tuesday, called the intrusions "a flagrant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq."

The letter said that late Friday morning local time, four Israeli F-15 fighters entered from Syrian airspace, flew at low altitude and crossed the northwest border of Iraq.

Then, it said, they climbed to between 6,300 metres and 8,100 metres, flew over the region of Al Kaim and Al Wadi before heading at low altitude for the area of Al Nadhayan on the Iraqi-Saudi Arabian border.

The letter said the violation of airspace "coincides with launching of the iniquitous campaign orchestrated by well-known international circles aimed at humiliating Iraq (and) confirms the existence of a premeditated plan... to humiliate the Iraqi people and to deprive them of their free will."

The administration is also angered at Mr. Shamir's drive to increase Jewish settlement on the occupied territories. Underlining Israel's rejection of the U.S. view, Jewish settlers Wednesday took over Arab houses in East Arab Jerusalem.

The U.S. decision to delay loan guarantees boosted its credibility with Palestinians and infuriated the right-wing Israeli government, which interpreted the move as pressure for more flexibility on the peace talks.

However, Mr. Shamir Monday outlined an unyielding position on key areas, warning that the peace conference may never take place.

Mr. Shamir rejected trading occupied land for peace with Israel's Arab neighbours. The U.S. sees that exchange as the way to end decades of war between Israel and its neighbours.

Mr. Arens also accused Washington of inflating Arab expectations on Wednesday and said he expected the United States to back Israel in Middle East peace talks.

"When Israel enters the process in which it will be negotiating with its neighbours, who are unfortunately all under totalitarian rule... I really do not expect the U.S. to be an honest broker," Mr. Arens said.

"I expect the U.S., the leader of the democratic community of nations, to stand by Israel's side," he told Jewish American fund-raisers.

Mr. Arens suggested that Arabs may have been lured to the peace conference by Washington and said he feared that Mr. Baker had aroused unrealistic Arab hopes.

"To some extent I think they feel that they have received encouragement from the government of the United States to expect that Israel will make these concessions," Mr. Arens said.

Mr. Arens singled out U.S. support for the principle of "land for peace" — that Israel would return Arab land occupied in 1967 for guarantees of peace from its Arab neighbours.

Developments in Taiwan

Constitutional reform

SINCE Lee Teng-hui took office as president on May 20, 1990 he has been working with Premier Han Pei-tsun on promoting constitutional reform, economic development, active and pragmatic foreign relations, culture, education, welfare and improved relations between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits.

The ROC Constitution was promulgated on Dec. 25, 1947. After the government moved to Taiwan because of the communist rebellion it formulated provisional articles endowing the head of state with far more powers than originally enumerated in the constitution. Over the past four decades, these articles helped maintain social order, creating a base for Taiwan's economic miracle.

However, return to constitutional rule and full democracy has always been a common desire.

Following a period of cautious reform that began with the end of martial law in 1987, the relaxation of bans on travel to China and the legalisation of new political parties in 1989, the ROC government further demonstrated its determination this year, when on May 1, 1991, it terminated the period of national mobilisation for suppression of the communist rebellion, abolishing the temporary provisions and promulgating additional articles of the constitution.

These articles lay down the legal basis for reelection in Taiwan of all deputies in the three branches of parliament within three years, replacing hundreds of aging Nationalist Party deputies who since they were first elected in mainland China in 1947.

The National Assembly also approved a constitutional amendment to reduce the number of deputies in the assembly from 593 to 326 and the size of parliament from 230 to 161.

Relations with China

The termination of the period of mobilisation shows the sincerity of the ROC government in adjusting relations with communist China. It has ruled out the use of force in seeking reunification and hopes to improve relations across the Taiwan Straits through sports, trade,



National Day celebrations in Taipei

academic and private exchanges. Premier Han Pei-tsun has reiterated that the ultimate objective of the government is a unified, democratic, free and equitably prosperous China.

In order to achieve this goal, three agencies have been set up over the past year to deal specifically with mainland affairs: The National Unification Council was established in October 1990 to make recommendations to the president on overall unification policy. The Mainland Affairs Council under the Executive Branch is responsible for formulation, review and implementation of mainland policies and the Straits Exchange Foundation, a private organisation formed in February 1991 is commissioned to resolve problems resulting from people-to-people contacts and to handle practical affairs.

Relations with other countries

The Six-year National Development Plan which aims at accelerating the nation's modernisation process and calls for an estimated investment of \$300 billion has attracted the visits of foreign delegations to the ROC including those from France, Italy, Japan, and Sweden. In addition, the ROC played host to a number of foreign dignitaries, from countries with which it shares either diplomatic ties or at least substantive relations.

Despite suffering a setback with the severance of ROC-Saudi diplomatic relations, the ROC developed economic and trade ties with the Soviet Union and East European nations. Diplomatic ties were resumed with Nicaragua and the Central African Republic, while joint communications calling for closer cooperation were signed with the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, and Guinea-Bissau.

Welfare

Taiwan's economic success and its transformation over the past decade from a traditional agricultural society into a modern industrial one has brought on a broad range of social problems and pressures that mostly derive from insufficient structural change. Industrialisation has brought a concentration of the labour force in cities and created employment insecurity. The radical shift in individual and household income and in working and living locations, has created significant problems which had an impact on the family as well. New forms of employment created new sets of health and accident problems. The arrival of the information revolution led to rising expectations concerning income, work environment, leisure activities, material possessions, social mobility and educational opportunities. Finally, the rising standard of living increased life expectancies. The ROC government has been quick to respond to the growing need for social welfare services by making them readily available. The principal policy is a plan for nationwide health insurance which is scheduled by 1994 to broaden health coverage from the present 49 per cent to more than 90 per cent of the population. In addition the government has made provisions for socially and economically deprived groups, including the poor, elderly, handicapped, dependent children and working

mothers. The government has also set up many vocational training centres and employment services and in order to protect those temporarily unemployed. Furthermore, an unemployment insurance programme is being planned and will be implemented in the near future. In 1990, the government spent more than 15 per cent of its national budget on social welfare. This is expected to increase to more than 18 per cent in 1991.

Tourism

As a result of the nation's growth in both inbound and outbound tourism, many international airlines have been encouraged to put Taipei on their itineraries. An agreement was reached with Canada to exchange aviation rights and to establish Taipei economic and cultural offices in major cities. Agreements for direct flights to Taipei were also reached with Australia, New Zealand and Austria. In Taiwan, Eva Air, a newly formed airline company, a branch of the well known Evergreen Shipping Lines, recently received permission to begin international service on July 1, 1991.

Culture

In contrast to Taiwan's strong economic development over the past few decades, culture has not generally been a high national or popular priority. Western cultural standards dominated in fine arts such as music, dance and theatre. However, greater social and political openness and increased contacts with the Chinese mainland have been catalysts in occasioning a new look at traditional Chinese culture. A result of this trend has been the revival of traditional arts which many feared might die out such as folk singing, opera and puppet art. A return of the Cloud Gate Dance Ensemble to the stage promises to enrich the development of modern Chinese dance. Spoken drama which in the past has been inextricably linked with opera is now coming into its own. And colourful celebrations of Chinese festivals such as the Lantern Festival continue to attract huge crowds of local residents and international tourists. This year, the event drew an estimated 2.42 million visitors to Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall.

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Al Jazireh humbles Al Orthodoxi with surprise win in U-19 basketball

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The under-19 basketball competition has undoubtedly proved to be an interesting event. It certainly has had its share of challenge, competition, surprises and upsets.

The team which has provided the element of surprise is of course Al Jazireh. After upsetting title-holders Al Ahli 87-82 last week they still had another surprise in store Tuesday — this time for Al Orthodoxi.

In one of the most exciting matches of the competition Al Jazireh beat Al Orthodoxi 63-62.

In the other match Al Ahli, who have suffered two successive humiliating defeats, managed to regain some of their confidence when they beat Al Watani 87-63.

Al Orthodoxi, confident of winning, led Al Jazireh at the beginning of the first half. But after the eleventh minute Al Jazireh led 16-15. However, Al Jazireh, playing with elevated

spirits and determination, won the first half 35-28. Al Orthodoxi managed to reduce the score at 53-52 in the 13th minute of the second half, but Al Jazireh's Munzer Al Muheisen, Yousef Abu Baker and their teammates would not let go and managed to keep their lead at 63-59 before a three pointer from Munaser Abu Al Tayyeh of Al Orthodoxi ended the match with a triumphant victory of 63-62 for Al Jazireh.

Al Jazireh, apparently not content with the No. 3 spot, now have a chance at being No. 2.

"This is the result of playing with determination and a fighting spirit," Al Jazireh's coach Fadi Al Sabbah told the Jordan Times.

In the other match, Al Watani gave Al Ahli a few difficult moments in the first half which Al Ahli won 35-30. In the second half Al Ahli expanded the score difference and won the match 87-63 thanks to their effective rebounding and more experienced players.

"We were playing man-to-man

defence throughout the match, which of course demands a lot of effort from our players. Had I had effective reserves to replace them the outcome of the match might have been different," Al Watani's head coach Ghaitir Al Najjar said in a statement to the Jordan Times.

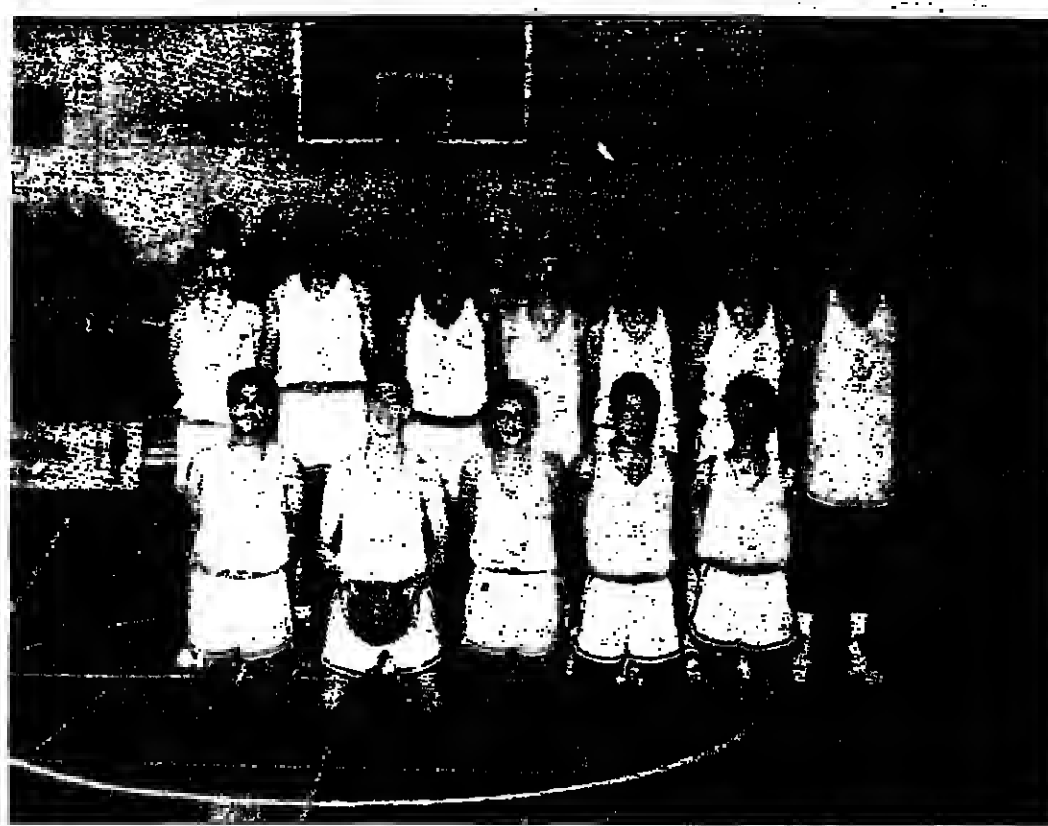
Al Ahli's head coach Rizeq Al Masri, commenting on his team's successive losses in the past week could only say "they were not playing their usual game."

On Thursday Al Jazireh will play Al Watani while Al Ahli will play Al Orthodoxi in the finals of the under-19 competition.

The final standings of the teams depends on these matches which will be held at the Ahli court.

Al Orthodoxi will get the title if they beat Al Ahli, while Al Jazireh will be No. 2 provided they win their match against Al Watani.

Even if Al Orthodoxi lose their match against Al Ahli (provided it is by less than 24 points) they



Al Ahli Club's under-19 basketball team

will still get the title while Al Ahli will be second and Al Jazireh third.

In the most unlikely possibility Al Ahli might retain the title if they beat Al Orthodoxi by

more than 24 points, in which case Al Orthodoxi will be second and Al Jazireh third.

Graf, Sabatini advance in Zurich

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — Top-seeded Steffi Graf of Germany defeated compatriot Eva Pfaff 6-1, 7-6 (7-4) Tuesday in the first round of the \$350,000 European Indoor Women's Tennis Tournament.

Second-seeded Gabriela Sabatini also advanced to the second round with a 6-3, 7-5 win over the Soviet Union's Eugenia Maniokova.

Graf trounced her opponent in the first set in 20 minutes. But her returns weakened in the second

set, enabling Pfaff to hold all her service games. The 22-year-old German, ranked second in the world, served impressively throughout despite a nagging shoulder injury.

Sabatini, ranked third in the world, also faced a tough second set, recovering from a 2-5 disadvantage.

The 21-year-old Argentine made a series of unforced errors and rarely approached the net during the 90-minute match. Maniokova entered the tourna-

ment as a qualifier and is the world's No. 131.

Sabatini said afterward that relaxation rather than tennis had been her main priority in the past few weeks. The Zurich tournament is her first competition since the U.S. Open in Flushing Meadows one month ago.

In other first-round matches, fifth-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia easily defeated American Ginger Helgeson 6-2, 6-3.

Becker makes convincing return at Tokyo Indoor Tennis Tournament

TOKYO (R) — World number two Boris Becker returned to action in convincing fashion Wednesday with a comfortable 6-2, 6-4 win in the second round of the million-dollar Tokyo Super Indoor Tennis Tournament.

The second seed German, playing his first match since his third round defeat at last month's U.S. Open, served 16 aces to overpower unseeded Swede Jan Gunnarsson in 62 minutes.

Top seed Stefan Edberg and third seed Ivan Lendl, who like Becker received first round byes, posted solid straight-sets wins.

Becker was forced to pull out of Germany's Davis Cup semifinal against the United States with a thigh injury which he blamed for his U.S. Open defeat by Dutchman Paul Haarhuis.

"The time off helps my mind it helps a lot to relax," he said. "It's easier for me to come back and play (indoors), because I like the surface."

Becker had planned to make his comeback at last week's Australian Indoor Championship, but pulled out because of a persistent back injury.

Tennis tournament to be held

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, YWCA in cooperation with the Fine Company, will hold the fifth tennis tournament from Oct. 15 — 21. Registration for the tournament will be at the YWCA building.

The games include: men's doubles, ladies' doubles, mixed doubles and youngsters.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a good day to look into whatever you don't understand or fine mysterious and to find out the real truth of whatever is perplexing you. Advance your joint activities by mutual agreement.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have many new ideas but it's up to you to see that you consult with an unusual partner how you and this individual can best put them in effect.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) There are so many obligations facing you and you are so able to do them in such an interesting and unique fashion that you can get much done today.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Getting off to some interesting site and discussing with partners how to make your joint plans more satisfactory can bring you achievement.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A peacemaker in your own family shows how to get more accord as well as more projects done with less fuss so listen to his comments.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is the time for you to get off to that place where you can bring out your charm and attractiveness and have a ball with those you like the most.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You are able to find the most effective means now by which to make more money and to have your usual companions go along with your projects.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Are you ready to celebrate this day by showing you value and understand the need for more practical success is more real for

this is the time.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Search out the means and the methods by which you are able to gain the good will of those clever businessmen who have it in their power to make you more prosperous.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) An understanding friend and ally who knows modern trends and how to please mutual friends will let you in on some way you can get lots of backing.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is the time for you to show you value the good will of those in power by quietly showing your appreciation and getting suggestions from them.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You find that your friends and acquaintances will release to you many ideas and courses of action that can gain you your hearts desire quickly.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Whatever you have in mind that brings to light the various means by which you feel you can attend to responsibilities so other are more pleased.

Today's child: If your child were born today she or he is inclined to be intolerant about other views and interests unless they receive special training from you that will make them focus on the serious standpoints that are being shared by others. Combining a fine mental capacity with practical capability of an unusual nature makes it possible for this child to succeed in a big way.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

IOC may drop several Olympic sports

BRUSSELS (R) — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is considering dumping up to seven sports from the Olympic programme and replacing them with events such as triathlon, golf or even beach volleyball.

"Six or seven sports which have always been included but no longer comply with modern taste and needs may be scrapped and replaced by others," Jacques Rogge, IOC member and chairman of the Association of European National Olympic Committees, said.

Mr. Rogge said triathlon would probably be included on the list, golf stood a good chance because of its popularity and beach volleyball was a possibility as it needed almost no facilities.

He declined to say which sports might go in the shake-up expected between the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and the 2000 games.

But a sports source, who asked not to be identified, said on Wednesday the most likely candidates appeared to be synchronized swimming, diving, water polo, modern pentathlon, rowing, canoeing, fencing, sailing and showjumping.

Mr. Rogge ruled out an increase in the current number of 26 Olympic sports.

"Sports like triathlon are already waiting at the door but they can't get in because there are

already too many sports...if one new sport is included, another will have to disappear," he told Reuters in an interview.

"It's quite revolutionary. So far sports have always been added and the few that disappeared, such as rugby, did so voluntarily."

Mr. Rogge said no decisions had been taken but endangered sports federations were lobbying hard to stay in the Olympic programme.

"For the moment we are holding discussions with these federations, that's why I don't want to give any names...it would be unfair," he said. "They should be given the chance, so they can prove they really can become popular."

Under threat are sports practised in a limited number of countries, very expensive sports, sports requiring a lot of infrastructure, sports not practised in Third World countries or sports which no longer appeal to young people.

"They have been given a warning. If they don't become popular, they get thrown out," Mr. Rogge said.

He said the IOC would forbid new disciplines in any sport unless they replaced others.

"The big clean-up will be between Atlanta and 2000. We want

to give these sports the chance to develop as much as possible, to prove that they can handle it."

The IOC also plans drastic action in keeping the maximum number of athletes at future games to 10,000.

Mr. Rogge said the current number of 167 countries competing in the Olympics could mushroom to 190 or 195 by 1996, including breakaway Soviet republics and countries from Africa.

"If the number of athletes has to remain stable and the number of countries grows, of course there will be fewer athletes per country," he said.

Tougher qualifying standards may help solve the problem. "Many Third World countries, which have never reached the level, register athletes. They register 10 to 20 athletes who don't belong at the games," Mr. Rogge said.

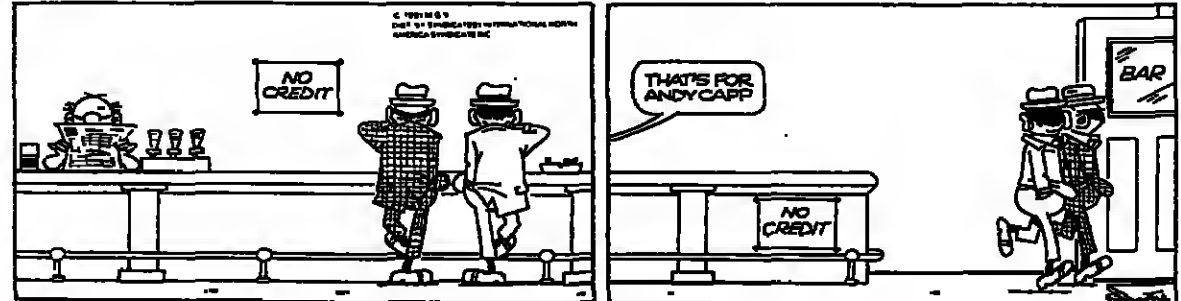
But the new standards could also hit countries such as Britain, who usually send 500 competitors to the games. "It's very possible Britain may send 10 to 15 per cent fewer athletes to the games," he said.

The measure would have a limited impact on next year's Barcelona Olympics but was bound to have a bigger influence in Atlanta, he added.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMMAM HIRSHI
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READ THOSE CARDS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 10 4 3
♥ K 6 5
♦ K 9 5 2
♣ A 2

EAST
♠ K 9 7 6 5 3
♥ Q 4 3
♦ Q 8
♣ Q 8

SOUTH
♠ A 2
♥ A 5 2
♦ A 7 2
♣ A 10 6

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ 2 ♠
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠
The Stratford Pairs event at the recent Long Island Regional was won by Gene Saxe of Stamford, Conn. and Margaret Kropp of South Windsor, Conn. Good card-reading on this hand by Kropp paved the way for her first Regional title.

East's spade overall after the Stayman inquiry did not prevent North-South from reaching a reasonable four-heart contract. It was likely to depend on the diamond finesse, and East's overall made it

probable that the queen of diamonds was favorably placed. However, declarer demonstrated the contract could be made despite the 4-1 trump break and the fact the diamond finesse was doomed to failure.

The opening spade lead was allowed to hold, declarer winning the continuation. Since West was more likely to hold heart length than East, declarer started by cashing the ace of hearts, fetching the queen from East. For those familiar with the Rule of Restricted Choice, it was twice as likely that East had started with a singleton honor than specifically queen-jack doubleton, so declarer continued by finessing the ten of hearts. When that held, declarer made the good shot of a low club to the ten, losing to the jack.

West exited with the jack of hearts, but declarer was in control. After winning the king of hearts, a club to the ace felled the queen. Declarer cashed out her two club tricks, then threw West on lead by exiting with a trump.

On lead with nothing but diamonds, the defender was forced to lead that suit into declarer's tenace. So despite the bad trump break and the queen of diamonds off side, declarer brought home her contract with the loss of just one trick in each suit except diamonds.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You have another chance to get all of your practical affairs in order so that you can operate in an even more effective manner. A gregarious minded person will make a major contribution.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) New conditions of all kinds are excellent for you now whether they be friends, acquaintances, traveling, changes or new schools of thought.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have many obligations that you can handle brilliantly and will be joining forces with any and all partners with whom you have any alliance whether so be truly cooperative.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is your time to show you are willing to join forces with any and all partners with whom you have any alliance whether so be truly cooperative.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is your time to actually do the project facing you in an eager and earnest fashion and by so doing you get approval of a highly placed individual.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) There is now a chance that you can have one of your happiest days if you are openminded to the numerous recreations now available to you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Look into the various outlets and shops that have the articles and appliances that appeal to your

own family and get what will increase family accord.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is your moment to get out and to speak plainly to your usual allies about what they feel and you can do have better daily progress.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Now you find that whatever you wish to do is all right so long as you look at the practical aspects and forget the personal facing you.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have a considerable number of personal ambitions that are right at your fingertips if you will concentrate on them and do what you must.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You now need to sit back and to note whatever ideas you have missed and that can help you to make a greater success of your everyday existence.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Listen to what blunt speaking friend has to say for much truth is contained there can be most helpful to you in seeking your personal longings.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is your moment to really find out what an official will do for you to help you gain some vocational or civic activity that is vital to you.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

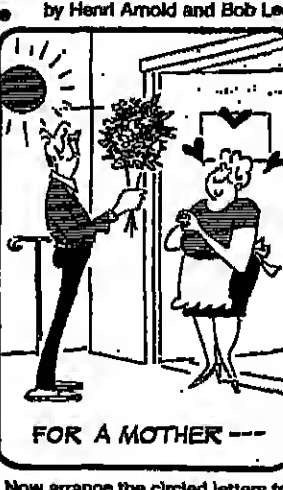


JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each space, to form four ordinary words.

YOSIN
CAINB
DASSIT
RASHEE



FOR A MOTHER

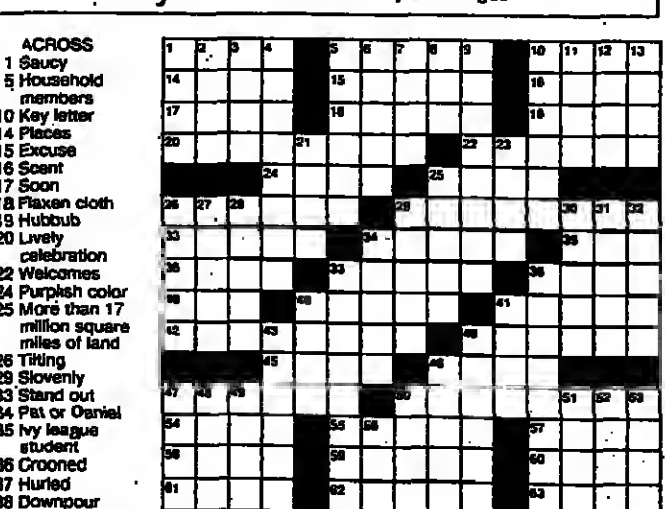
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: THE ALWAYS (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumble: MINCE BUSHY DECENT CANYON
Answer: When a young man sows too many wild oats, it won't take long for him to start looking "SEEDY."

THE Daily Crossword

by Fran Regus



| | | |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ACROSS | 1 Saucy | 10 North |
| 5 Household members | 11 Wind | 19 NY state prison |
| 10 Key letter | 12 Ms Adams | 20 Wind |
| 14 Places | 13 A word | 21 Ready for picking |
| 15 Excuse | 14 Cat's-paw | 22 Unaccompanied |
| 16 Scent | 15 Cat's-paw | 23 Puppeter |
| 17 SCOT | 16 Ready for picking | 24 Seasoning |
| 18 Flaxen cloth | 17 Puppeter | 25 Waterless |
| 19 Hubbub | 18 Seasoning | 26 Golf course |
| 20 Welcomes | 19 Waterless | 27 Puppeter |
| 21 Purple color | 20 Golf course | 28 Haphezarthy |
| 22 More than 17 million square miles of land | 21 Cat's-paw | 29 Make new modifications |
| 23 Tiling | 22 Unaccompanied | 30 Acorns |
| 24 Stand out | 23 Puppeter | 31 Phase |
| 25 Pat or Daniel | 24 Seasoning | 32 Attends a banquet |
| 26 Ivy league student | 25 Waterless | 33 Haphezarthy |
| 27 Crooned | 26 Golf course | 34 Make new modifications |
| 28 Hurled | 27 Puppeter | 35 Acorns |
| 29 Downpour | 28 Haphezarthy | 36 Phase |
| 30 Place of refuge | 29 Make new modifications | 37 Attends a banquet |
| 31 The very best | 30 Acorns | 38 Haphezarthy |
| 32 Tennis term | 31 Phase | 39 Make new modifications |
| 33 Furrage | 32 Attends a banquet | 40 Acorns |
| 34 Asserts | 33 Haphezarthy | 41 Phase |
| 35 Elec. units | 34 Make new modifications | 42 Revere |
| 36 Haphezarthy | 35 Acorns | |
| 37 Song | 36 Phase | |
| 38 Gridlock | 37 Attends a banquet | |
| 39 Vocal | 38 Haphezarthy | |
| 40 Harsh to the taste | 39 Make new modifications | |
| 41 ATOP | 40 Acorns | |
| 42 Saxon | 41 Phase | |
| 43 Seasoning | 42 Revere | |
| 44 Waterless | | |
| 45 Scent | | |
| 46 Family or shoe finish | | |

Puzzle Solved:

SCARF ATOM RAIN
TOWNS DROD ESTE
APRIL DAYA CHIA
REDIMPTION TOLD
PRIDE EUDOR
LEAD OVER TITAO
VENORE GANCIO
VENO TRAD
BISON HAROSE
VERBOS ODA
WARS MARESPOR
ARUA FROE DALLY
OLET OBE FLOU
MYSE NOSS ROPES

JOEL IN ITS

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

| Currency | New York Close | Tokyo Close |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Date: 8/10/1991 | Date: 9/10/1991 |
| Sterling Pound | 1.7030 | 1.7050 |
| Deutsche Mark | 1.7057 | 1.7070 |
| Swiss Franc | 1.4910 | 1.4910 |
| French Franc | 5.8040 | 5.8010 |
| Japanese Yen | 130.33 | 130.65 |
| European Currency Unit | 1.2009 | 1.2023 |

USD Per STU
European Opening: 8:00 a.m. GMT

Bartercurrency Interest Rates Date: 9/10/1991

| Currency | 1 MTH | 3 MTHS | 6 MTHS | 12 MTHS |
|------------------------|-------|--------|--------|---------|
| U.S. Dollar | 5.25 | 5.43 | 5.25 | 5.43 |
| Sterling Pound | 10.31 | 10.12 | 10.06 | 9.93 |
| Deutsche Mark | 9.12 | 9.25 | 9.25 | 9.25 |
| Swiss Franc | 8.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 | 7.87 |
| French Franc | 9.12 | 9.25 | 9.31 | 9.37 |
| Japanese Yen | 6.75 | 6.53 | 6.25 | 6.00 |
| European Currency Unit | 9.68 | 9.75 | 9.81 | 9.81 |

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals Date: 9/10/1991

| Metal | USD/Oz | JD/Gm | Metal | USD/Oz | JD/Gm |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| Gold | 356.85 | 7.00 | Silver | 4.07 | .095 |

21 Karat
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 9/10/1991

| Currency | Bid | Offer |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| U.S. Dollar | .687 | .689 |
| Sterling Pound | 1.1676 | 1.1734 |
| Deutsche Mark | .4079 | .4090 |
| Swiss Franc | .4601 | .4624 |
| French Franc | .1181 | .1187 |
| Japanese Yen | .5267 | .5293 |
| Dutch Guilder | .3570 | .3588 |
| Swedish Krona | .1103 | .1109 |
| Italian Lira | .0538 | .0541 |
| Belgian Franc | .07966 | .07976 |

Other Currencies Date: 9/10/1991

| Currency | Bid | Offer |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| Bahraini Dinar | 1.7930 | 1.8050 |
| Lebanese Lira | .0772 | .0776 |
| Saudi Riyal | .1829 | .1839 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | .1863 | .1873 |
| Omani Riyal | .2090 | .2190 |
| Egyptian Pound | 1.7590 | 1.7790 |
| UAE Dirham | .1863 | .1873 |
| Greek Drachma | .3650 | .3725 |
| Cypriot Pound | 1.4500 | 1.4600 |

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

| Index | 7/10/1991 Close | 8/10/1991 Close |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| All-Share | 122.43 | 122.35 |
| Banking Sector | 103.44 | 103.12 |
| Insurance Sector | 124.55 | 125.44 |
| Industry Sector | 151.45 | 151.56 |
| Services Sector | 129.19 | 129.85 |

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| One Sterling | 1.7015/25 | U.S. dollars | 1.1285/90 |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.7075/80 | Canadian dollar | 1.2010/20 |
| | 1.9210/20 | Deutsche marks | 1.4920/25 |
| | 35.08/12 | Dutch guilders | 5.8075/8125 |
| | 1273/1274 | Swiss francs | 130.70/80 |
| | 6.2200/50 | Belgian francs | 6.5770/6820 |
| | 6.6770/6820 | French francs | 6.5770/6820 |
| | 357.30/70 | Italian lire | 2066.00/00 |
| | | Japanese yen | 163.00/00 |
| | | Swedish crowns | 136.00/00 |
| | | Norwegian crowns | 136.00/00 |
| | | Danish crowns | 136.00/00 |
| | | U.S. dollars | 1.1285/90 |

Bush eases bank loan regulations

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush approved steps Tuesday to help alleviate the nation's tight credit conditions and speed economic recovery by making it easier for small businesses to get bank loans.

While Mr. Bush described the proposals as a "very comprehensive program," an outline of the measures being taken showed that in many cases they made only minor changes to a program first unveiled last March.

One of the biggest changes announced Tuesday would institute a new appeals process for bankers who think that federal regulators are being too tough on them.

They would be able to appeal the decisions of bank examiners directly to senior officials at the regulatory agencies without going through normal channels.

These new appeals would be kept confidential in an attempt to answer complaints of bankers who say they are reluctant to appeal decisions currently for fear of angering the examiners they have to deal with on a regular basis.

Another change announced Tuesday would increase the amount of preferred stock that



George Bush

banks can count as part of the capital they must hold based on the size of their outstanding loans.

Many banks find it easier to raise preferred rather than common stock and they had lobbied for this change. By expanding the amount of preferred stock that can be counted as capital, the administration hopes to expand the lending capacity for many banks.

Other changes in the package seek to limit the costs of appraisals for small businesses and home owners, to promote ways of ensuring that bankers and bank examiners understand the liberalized guidelines and to develop new guidelines for appraising the value of real estate in depressed markets.

IEA, OPEC agree on agenda for initial talks

JAKARTA (R) — Leaders of the world's major oil consumer and producer groups — Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the International Energy Agency (IEA) — have agreed to hold talks on technical aspects of the oil market to help improve stability.

"What is required now is a very careful and very meticulous and accurate approach to what we are going to do and then we would like to let reason prevail rather than politics," Quincy Lumsden, director of the IEA's office of oil market developments, said Wednesday.

Mr. Lumsden cautioned that talks would have to stick to technical matters and avoid the politics which have driven a wedge in the past between consumers and OPEC.

He suggested "four areas of

discussion — energy information exchange, examination of market mechanisms, industrial or investment regimes and energy efficiency and environment.

"Price management and targeting (of production) will not be included (in the agenda)," Mr. Lumsden told reporters during an energy conference in Jakarta.

OPEC Secretary-General Subroto said: "Consumers do not like to discuss price fixing but that is also not in the interests of OPEC." He said he agreed on the four points proposed by the IEA for initial talks.

"We must take positive measures to bring about stability by providing more comprehensive and timely information in order to increase market transparency," Mr. Subroto said, adding the dangers of a confrontational approach were very clear.

U.N. official advocates conditional write-off of debts

MANILA (AP) — A U.N. official Wednesday called for international talks to write off developing countries' debt if they agree to divert savings to education and technology and not to corrupt rulers.

Mahbub Ul Haq, special adviser to the administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), said developing countries cannot continue collecting debts from poor nations while denying them trade access.

Developing nations currently owe about \$1.5 trillion to foreign governments, banks and other lending institutions.

"I am certainly in favour of a very major global bargain to write off this debt," Mr. Mahbub, former finance minister of Pakistan, told reporters. "This kind of debt can never be paid."

Mr. Mahbub said developing countries, however, must show greater responsibility in managing their financial affairs in return for a debt write-off.

"Developing countries cannot ask for forgiveness of debts if they spend \$200 million for their military... if there is tremendous corruption in the system and if there is massive capital flight and people do not take a chance on their own systems," he said.

Mr. Mahbub is attending the Asian and Pacific Ministerial conference on social welfare and social development sponsored by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The conference began Monday and ends Friday.

Mr. Mahbub said savings from any debt write-off should be diverted to education and technological advancement. He said only about two to three per cent of Third World students major in technological courses compared with 30 per cent in industrialised countries.

"You can't survive in this world... without a real investment in science and technology," he said. "That has been done by some of the 'Asian tigers,' such as South Korea."

Mr. Mahbub said that without debt relief and economic improvements, developed countries like the United States, Japan and Western European nations will face a tidal wave of immigrants and illegal workers from the Third World seeking a better livelihood.

"They have a high stake in it because in a few decades, people will start travelling if the opportunities do not," he said.

He said international banks would probably cooperate in a worldwide debt solution to avoid massive defaults by impoverished governments.

IMF calls on industrial nations to tighten belts

BANGKOK (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) warned leading industrial nations Wednesday that long-term economic growth would be under threat unless they forced through tough public-spending cuts.

The IMF said in its latest economic forecast that the United States, Britain and Canada would help drag the world economy out of the doldrums in 1992 as they rebounded from their first recession in a decade.

World economic growth is poised to accelerate to 2.8 per cent next year after slumping to less than one per cent in 1991, according to the forecast, issued just before the annual meeting here of the IMF and the World Bank.

But the fund tempered its upbeat forecast with a warning that

recovery could be short-lived. Massive new demands on the pool of world savings from the war-shattered Middle East, the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and a newly-reunited Germany can be met only by fiscal belt-tightening by the leading industrial economies, the IMF said.

"New demands for saving associated with reconstruction in the Middle East, German unification and reform in Eastern Europe and the USSR could amount to almost \$100 billion in 1991," it said.

The IMF also expected a further \$80 billion a year would have to be found between 1992 and 1996.

As private saving — money that individuals and businesses put by — steadily falls throughout

the industrial world, pressure is mounting on governments to borrow less by cutting spending.

Governments that run large fiscal deficits by spending more than they raise through taxes compete with private borrowers for savings, driving up interest rates.

The fund is counting on the United States, Italy, Germany, and Canada to deliver on promises to cut their ballooning deficits.

"Achievement of these fiscal objectives is essential to sustain growth in the industrial world in the 1990s against the background of rising demands for saving in other regions and declining private saving in the industrial countries," it said.

If industrial nations fail to rein in spending over the next five years, world interest rates could be driven up by one half of a percentage point, the IMF added. However, success would secure growth of 3.25 per cent in the industrial world between 1992 and 1996.

Inflation was expected to ease in the major industrial countries but the fund said the United States, Britain and Canada would have to be ready to put on the brakes by tightening credit if their recession-hit economies rebounded too quickly.

The combined current account deficit of the industrial nations was set to jump to \$100 billion in 1992 from \$35 billion in 1991, reflecting higher commodity prices and a phasing out of extraordinary payments arising from the Gulf war.

The IMF predicted strong growth next year in Africa, Asia and Latin America and a sharp recovery in the Middle East as economies in the region repair damage inflicted by conflict.

The fund said there would be no recovery in the Soviet Union unless sweeping economic reforms were put in place.

"In the USSR, a recovery of economic activity in the years ahead would require the expedient implementation of a comprehensive programme of macroeconomic stabilisation and systemic reforms," the report said.

A modest recovery in Eastern Europe was in store next year but it hinged on continued efforts to press ahead with market reforms in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania and Poland.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

PHOENIX Gallery

Although the Phoenix Experimental Arts Centre has main concern in culture, but it is also a set-up for hosting receptions, business lunches and working dinners in a pleasant, home like ambience. Come, taste the difference. Find a home away from a home, and support our art and cultural project.

FOR RENT

Deluxe Villa Furnished or Unfurnished
Ideal for diplomatic missions

Consists of 4 bedrooms, 2 salons, 4 bathrooms, dining room, central solar heating, telephone, large kitchen, large basement, beautiful garden, maid's small room, gardener's room with its bath.

Location: Sweifish area.

Call tel: 813591, from 8 a.m. - 12 noon and 5-8 p.m.

ARABIC

Arabic classes for foreigners will start on October 15th 1991 as follows:

- Level: starter/advanced
- Duration: two months
- Classes: three classes per week (2 hrs duration each)
- Fee: JD50 per month.

For further details call: 601600-687877

FOR SALE

Renault car model 21 Man 1988, automatic gear, air condition, colour golden metallic, duty not paid.

For more information call tel: 813292

FLAT FOR RENT

A deluxe flat for rent with full home appliances, located in Jabal Amman between 3rd and 4th Circles near Spanish and Russian Embassies. With 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bathrooms, laundry room and a large kitchen. Also contains a large reception area with large terraces.

If interested please call at: 641563

From 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

and 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

DELUXE FURNISHED VILLA FOR RENT

- ★ 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 salons, one sitting room, one dining room, servant room with bathroom, laundry room.
- ★ 500 sq. metres.
- ★ Garden with a big water reservoir.
- ★ Location: Fifth Circle, Um Uthainah

Please call tel: 818279

PHOENIX Gallery

A group of artists specialised in children's education invites children (age 6-15) to join in the activities named "PHOENIX IN AUTUMN" Hurry up! Don't miss long trips through the beauty of autumn's colours, smells, forms and sounds! We are waiting for you every Friday (11 a.m.-2 p.m.) in the Phoenix Experimental Arts Club for Children, starting on Friday, Oct. 11. ★ Activities will be in Arabic and English languages. ★ Monthly membership fee JD12

NOOR AL HUSSEIN FOUNDATION

Invites You to A Rare and Special Exhibition of the Finest Jordanian Handicrafts Newly Designed for Export (Embroidery, Glass, Carpets, and Ceramics)

At Amman Marriott Hotel

Oct. 8 - Oct. 14
10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

For information please call 699141

Cinema Tel: 677420

HEAVENLY BODIES

Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144

THE KIT KAT (Arabic)

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre Tel: 675371

SOMERSAULT TIME PLAY

Starring: The family of 'Abu Awwad neighbourhood' Shows start at 8:30 every evening. ★ Early reservation is preferable due to great demand.

Cinema Tel: 625155

HER ALIBI

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Russian vice-president says government sliding into anarchy

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin's deputy said Tuesday the republic was sinking into anarchy and denounced a tentative economic agreement with other republics as banditry, Interfax News Agency said.

Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi told the Russian Parliament that no-one in government was bearing responsibility for decisions and that the economy continued to slide.

At the same time, Soviet television said Russian Deputy Prime Minister Igor Gavrilov resigned, complaining that the republic's leaders were embroiled in unnecessary conflicts with other republics.

Internal power struggles were also hindering the republic in its efforts to save the economy from ruin, Interfax quoted him as saying in his resignation letter to Mr. Yeltsin.

"We are building mountains of laws, but no-one is carrying them out, there being no effective mechanism of state control... as a result, anarchy is descending upon the republic," Mr. Rutskoi said.

His comments came after a week of acrimonious clashes in the Russian Federation, with one senior official describing a colleague as a "brat" and others accusing Mr. Yeltsin of circumventing his government.

Mr. Rutskoi described an economic cooperation treaty initiated by 12 republics in the Kazakh capital of Alma-Ata this month as a "graphic example of banditry," Russia, he said, was being milked

like a cow by other republics. The treaty, already signed by three republics, could ensure this continued.

The Russian vice-president, contradicting the thinking of several other republican leaders, said Russia must found a political union with other republics before thinking about any economic association. If need be, it should ally with just a core of perhaps two other republics.

Mr. Yeltsin has been on holiday at the Black Sea resort of Sochi and made no public comment on the Alma-Ata agreement, a three-year treaty designed to halt economic disintegration and ensure cooperation between republics.

He is likely to declare shortly after his return Thursday whether or on what terms Russia will sign the deal.

But signs of impatience are growing within the Russian administration, with several leading officials hinting at possible unilateral steps by Russia, by far the most powerful republic.

Interfax said Russian State Secretary Gennady Burbulis, one of Mr. Yeltsin's closest advisers, had told the president in Sochi he believed Russia should steer a path to independence by declaring itself the legal successor of the Soviet state — a move that would formally break ties with other republics.

Mr. Burbulis said Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev had reacted with "extreme anxiety" to the suggestion. Mr. Yeltsin, he said, reacted "normally." He

gave no details.

Meanwhile former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said Tuesday economic hardship and hunger could prompt a second right-wing coup in the Soviet Union, Interfax News Agency said.

Mr. Shevardnadze, who resigned his government post last December predicting a right-wing dictatorship, told a Moscow conference of U.S. investors that inflation, falling industrial production and food shortages could all stir social tensions.

The country would then be only a short from angry demonstrations and extremist sentiments that could be exploited by right-wingers.

"The threat of a rightist coup... is still a reality to be reckoned with," Mr. Shevardnadze said, according to Interfax. "It does not come from any specific structures but may be rooted in the deteriorating economic situation."

President Mikhail Gorbachev was overthrown for three days in August by a group of right-wing Communists backed by the KGB and army. Since his return to power, the Communist Party has been broken as a political force and the security forces brought to heel.

But though effective power has now devolved to the republics, they have yet to decide a clear strategy for transfer to a market economy and are still divided over an economic treaty to ensure mutual deliveries of food and industrial goods.

In a separate development, Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis warned the West Tuesday there could be a second coup in the Soviet Union and won backing from Britain for his campaign to remove Soviet troops from his country.

The leader of the breakaway Baltic republic told a news conference the conditions which led to August's failed coup against President Gorbachev still existed. "Although the coup did not succeed, the communist Party structure and the government of the old guard is continuing and they will naturally attempt to remain in power," he said.

Mr. Landsbergis said the armed forces were still unhappy and the economy was in chaos. These factors had created "the opportunity for political forces to come to the fore which have Russian nationalist and possibly fascist associations."

Mr. Landsbergis, who addressed the annual conference of Britain's ruling Conservative Party in Blackpool, later won support from Prime Minister John Major over his campaign to press Moscow to remove its troops from Lithuania, a former Soviet republic.

"The prime minister told President Landsbergis that the British government strongly supported the desire of Lithuanians to see the withdrawal of Soviet Armed Forces from Lithuanian territory effected as soon as possible," a statement said.

"He said he would press the Soviet Union to do this."

U.S. sends medical supplies to S. Union

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States Tuesday sent an airlift of \$2.3 million in medical supplies to the industrially polluted Ural Mountain area of the Russian Republic.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the shipment was part of the humanitarian medical initiative announced by President George Bush last December.

It brought to \$13.2 million the total amount of donated medicines and related supplies distributed in the Soviet Union under the initiative.

Ms. Tutwiler said the shipment of badly needed supplies, including intravenous sets, syringes, bandages, surgical gloves, thermometers and infant formula, would be divided among 11 medical institutions, including children's and maternity hospitals, in the cities of Sverdlovsk, Tyumen and Chelyabinsk.

"This area was chosen in response to the variety of chronic illnesses in the area, which were partly caused by industrial pollution," she said.

Project Hope, an international non-profit health organization, is coordinating the shipment with the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The supplies were shipped from Dulles Airport on a charter plane provided by the Soviet government.

Earlier this year, shipments went to Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Sakhalin Island, Moscow and the Chernobyl area of the Ukraine.

In a separate development, the Soviet Union welcomed the \$2.5 billion aid package announced by Japan Tuesday, saying it would get next week's visit by Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama off to a good start.

But Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin said there was no apparent solution to the territorial dispute between the two countries.

"The documentary evidence is contradictory," he told reporters after a news briefing. "The Japanese seem to have a solid claim, but we feel we have a solid claim too."

Moscow would welcome any solution which satisfied public opinion in both countries, he said.

The four islands just off northern Japan were seized by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II and Tokyo has refused to sign a formal peace treaty until they are handed back.

Mr. Churkin said Mr. Nakayama, who arrives Saturday, would discuss the islands during his visit. "We always do," he said.

He will meet Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Foreign Minister Boris Pankin and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, whose giant republic includes the disputed territory.

The regional government in Sakhalin, which has jurisdiction over the islands, has pledged to fight any deal under which Moscow would return them in exchange for Japanese aid and investment in the creaking Soviet economy.

A senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official said in Tokyo that the aid package was meant as a message of support for reform and not a bargaining chip in the territorial dispute.

"This does not mean we have abandoned our position to seek the return for the northern territories," the official said, using Tokyo's name for the islands.

Haiti president sworn in; OAS calls it illegal

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Haiti's parliament, watched by leaders of a military coup, formally installed the senior judge of the supreme court Tuesday as provisional president.

In a ceremony boycotted by Western diplomats and more than one-third of 110 parliamentarians, Joseph Nerette, 67, took an oath of office replacing ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Hours after Judge Nerette was sworn in, the Organisation of American States (OAS) in Washington declared the new government illegal and urged its members to freeze Haitian assets and stop trading with the country.

The OAS also said it would ask the United Nations to urge its members to impose a similar embargo and freeze the impoverished Caribbean nation's assets world-wide. The OAS also agreed to a request from Mr. Aristide that a civilian force be set up and sent to Haiti.

In Caracas, where Mr. Aristide fled after the Sept. 30 coup, the ousted president urged Haitians to resist peacefully, calling non-violence the only road to democracy.

"Always through non-violence we will continue for the return of democracy," he said at a news conference. He strongly denied charges that he had ever called for an armed insurrection and refused to answer questions about Judge Nerette.

"Why should I speak about someone that plays no part in this democratic process?" said Mr. Aristide, a Catholic priest and Haiti's first freely elected president.

The ceremony in Haiti's parliament gave at least the appearance

of constitutional backing to the eight-day-old coup and complicated international efforts to reinstate Mr. Aristide, Haiti's first democratically elected president.

Coup leader Brigadier-General Raoul Cedras, who sat in a front-row chair throughout the ceremony, was applauded when he and a half-dozen aides arrived at the parliament dressed in military uniforms.

On Monday soldiers had ringed the parliament, fired in the air and barred parliamentarians from leaving until they formally voted that Mr. Aristide had vacated his office.

Under Haiti's constitution, if the office of president is vacated the senior supreme court judge takes the post.

The United States and other Western nations made clear Tuesday they would not recognize the provisional government because it was installed at gunpoint.

France Tuesday condemned the appointment of the provisional president of Haiti, describing the move as a "pseudo-constitutional coup d'etat."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard said Haitian troops had forced parliamentarians into appointing Supreme Court Justice Nerette as president and had thereby, "dug themselves ever deeper into illegality."

"Those who suffer the most from this are the Haitian people who have already suffered enough," Mr. Bernard said.

Mr. Bernard said France was demanding the army's return to barracks and the restoration of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who has been offered political asylum in France.

Burma purges hundreds

BANGKOK (R) — Burma's military government is conducting a Stalinist purge of civil servants to try to wipe out educated dissent, an authoritative Rangoon resident said Wednesday.

More than 15,000 civil servants considered disloyal have been sacked or disciplined since the military takeover in September 1988, the resident, who declined to be identified, told reporters in Bangkok.

"They are reaching a peak at

this moment," he said.

Chief of military intelligence Major General, Khin Nyunt and other members of the ruling military State Law and Order Restoration Council have issued a series of public warnings to civil servants in recent weeks.

They have ordered civil servants to inform on relatives with links to dissenting groups.

Those seen to be slacking in their duties will be transferred to other provinces.

U.S. Senate delays vote on judge Thomas

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate has postponed its confirmation vote on Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas for a week to investigate charges of sexual misconduct leveled by a former aide.

The agreement to postpone the vote scheduled Tuesday evening to Oct. 15 came after a dramatic day of debate on and off the Senate floor.

"It's most unfortunate that we have been placed in this situation," Senate majority leader George Mitchell said in announcing the postponement.

Judge Thomas' confirmation has been suddenly clouded by a charges of sexual harassment. Thomas, President George Bush's choice for the high court, has denied the allegation.

The charges came from Anita Hill, who worked for Judge Thomas at the education department and when he was head of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission a decade ago.

Now a law professor at the University of Oklahoma, Ms.

Hill, 35, said Sunday that Judge Thomas pressured her to date him and made explicit sexual remarks to her, including talking about pornography films.

Thomas, 43, is a conservative black appeals court judge. He has been named to replace retiring liberal Thurgood Marshall, the only black to have served on the Supreme Court.

The court is a powerful branch of U.S. government, having the power to rule laws unconstitutional. The nine-member court opened its fall session Monday with Judge Marshall's seat vacant. Judge Thomas' appointment would have further tilted the balance of the Supreme Court along conservative lines. Some Americans are concerned that a conservative court might overturn a 1973 landmark ruling that legalized abortion.

Senate Republican leader Bob Dole said it was not certain that Judge Thomas would have been confirmed if the vote had been held.

Croatia quiet after new truce accord

ZAGREB (R) — Battlefields were reported quiet in Croatia Wednesday after the rebel republic and the Yugoslav army agreed on a new ceasefire which the head of a European Community (EC) mission said inspired hope of lasting peace.

Early radio reports said there was a lull in the conflict, raising hopes of an end to more than three months of fighting between Croatian forces, Serbs rebelling against the republic's independence moves and the Serb-led federal army.

In an act of defiance, the Croatian parliament ratified a declaration of independence Tuesday and severed ties with the Yugoslav Federation. The neighbouring Republic of Slovenia quickly pushed ahead with independence moves, too.

But Croatian officials later agreed to the latest of several ceasefire talks with the army chaired by the Dutch leader of a team of EC truce monitors.

"I think we have reached an agreement which has prospects for working which are better than the many ceasefire agreements we have signed before," said Dirk Jan Van Houten.

Agreement was reached in principle for Croatian forces to lift their blockade of federal army barracks and for relief supplies to be sent to besieged towns across the republic. The armed forces said they would lift a sea blockade of key ports.

But there appeared to be no mention of a total withdrawal of federal troops from the republic — a key Croatian demand — and some members of the Croatian National Guard, mindful of previous truces that failed, criticised the accord.

"We are totally unhappy. They will just move this (equipment) somewhere else and attack us from another front," one said at the Borongaj Barracks in Zagreb Wednesday.

There was also no immediate sign of Croatian forces lifting their blockade of the Borongaj Barracks or of any other bases.

Croatian officials say more than 1,000 people have been killed in fighting since Croatia declared independence on June 25. The republic froze independence moves for three months but confirmed Tuesday it would push ahead with them.

Mr. Van Houten said the ceasefire agreement would be respected by both parties as long as they took part in an EC-sponsored peace conference on Yugoslavia's future in the Hague.

The ceasefire, which came into force Tuesday evening, was signed after the Croatian parliament ratified a declaration of independence and demanded the immediate withdrawal of the federal "army of occupation."

"We have removed the heavy milestone which was hanging around us and which for over 70 years dragged us down into an abyss," parliamentarian Vice-Chairman Vladimir Seks told deputies.

They sang the Croatian nation-

al anthem after unanimously voting to sever ties with Yugoslavia.

The so-called Yugoslav People's Army has been proclaimed an aggressor and an occupying army and must leave the territory of the Republic of Croatia... without delay," Mr. Seks said, quoting the parliament's resolution.

Under a defence law also adopted Tuesday, Croatia set up its own armed forces, formed around the National Guard which has borne the brunt of bitter fighting against Serb guerrillas backed by the federal army.

The Croatian parliament called on the federal army to discharge all Croatian soldiers in its ranks within eight days of the law coming into effect.

The EC monitors had threatened to pull out Croatia if no ceasefire agreement was reached, an EC mission source said. While the monitoring mission negotiated the truce, the EC postponed imposing economic sanctions against Yugoslavia.

In a fresh effort to find lasting peace in the Balkan country, former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance was appointed Tuesday as a personal representative of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

He is to prepare a report on Yugoslavia called for in a recent Security Council resolution.

The Yugoslav ceasefire provided for daily meeting between the rival sides to discuss problems thrown up by three months of war.

"You cannot eat an elephant whole," an EC monitor said. "You have to chop it up into small pieces."

Intervention not ruled out

Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos said Tuesday that there might have to be international intervention in Yugoslavia, but only as a last resort to end the bloodshed if an economic embargo failed.

"When the situation escalates further, for instance when the whole of Croatia is occupied by the federal army, in this case we should first have a real economic embargo," Mr. Poos said in a British radio interview.

"And if this embargo does not work, we could really look at the Kuwaiti precedent and set a deadline," he said.

"And if this deadline is not met, there could be a coordinated international action against the party which fails to execute the international law," Mr. Poos said in the interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation's World Service.

Britain Tuesday denounced Yugoslavia's federal army as "a band of brigands" for its attacks on Croatia and said breakaway republics would achieve their independence.

"Yugoslavia cannot be held together by force that much has been proved," Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said.

S. Africa death toll rises; Tutu opens peace talks

CAPE TOWN (R) — Thirteen more people have died in South African political unrest, pushing the toll to 31 in what Nobel laureate Desmond Tutu condemned as a "Frankenstein" spectre of black township violence.

The anti-apartheid churchman led a peace conference in Cape Town Wednesday, declaring "enough is enough."

He urged efforts to wipe out a frenzy of violence that has killed 3,000 people in a year.

Trouble erupted two days ago at the funeral of an African National Congress (ANC) member, with killings that brought a row between the ANC and police and strained a halting process of negotiation about a transition from white rule to democracy.

ANC President Nelson Mandela and President F.W. de Klerk, leaders of the talks about moving to majority rule, have lashed out at each other with charges of bad faith and incompetence.

Archbishop Tutu, leader of the Anglican Church in southern Africa, told 300 delegates to the one-day peace conference in Cape Town's municipal headquarters: "Enough is enough. We are sick and tired of this mindless violence."

"The violence gripping the black townships is a Frankenstein that will not be satisfied with wreaking havoc only there... it will spread to engulf the suburbs."

Police said 13 people were killed Tuesday night and Wednesday, four of them by automatic rifle fire at a taxi rank in central Johannesburg, three thrown from a moving train, one in a clash with police and others shot and hacked to death.

Several of the latest killings were in Tokozo, the black township east of Johannesburg, where 18 people were shot and stabbed to death Monday after the funeral of slain ANC community leader Sam Ntuli.

Archbishop Tutu and Cape Town Mayor Frank Van Der Veldt called the conference to seek an end to a year-long territorial war between rival black taxi operators, who have killed 60 people in their battle for control over the city's most lucrative routes.

China says Taiwan is 'playing with fire'

PEKING (R) — Chinese President Yang Shangkun made one of Peking's sharpest threats over to pro-independence advocates on Taiwan Wednesday, saying "those who play with fire will be burned to ashes."

China's headline president, in a speech marking the country's republican revolution of 1911, also delivered thinly-disguised attacks on Taiwan's Nationalist leaders and on the United States, which he accused of being bent on destroying China.

The speech appeared to confirm the sharp deterioration of relations between China and Taiwan, which in recent years seemed to have put their cold war hostility behind them.

Diplomats said it also disclosed a new alarm in Peking over Taiwan independence following the break-up of the Soviet Union.

China has repeatedly attacked the pro-independence movement in Taiwan, which holds that the island should sever its connection to China and strike out as an independent country.

"Recently the forces working for independence on the island of Taiwan have become swollen with arrogance. In attempting to split the country and the nation, they are trampling upon the will of the compatriots on both sides of the straits," Mr. Yang said.



Archbishop Desmond Tutu

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Romanian envoy kidnapped in India

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Two men kidnapped Romania's top-ranking diplomat here Wednesday, apparently in retaliation for the killing and arrest of Sikh extremists who attacked the Indian ambassador in Bucharest six weeks ago, police said.

The Romanian charge d'affaires, Liviu Radu, was abducted from his car at 8:10 a.m. (0240 GMT) while he was driving from his home to the embassy, a police spokesman said.

At least one of the abductors wore the distinctive turban and beard of male members of the Sikh faith, the spokesman said. The kidnappers intercepted the diplomat's car and forced him into their car, which bore fake licence plates, the spokesman said. He spoke, as is customary, on condition of anonymity.

He identified the diplomat as L. Radu, 55. The government's protocol division said his first name was Liviu.

United News of India (UNI)

Two people were hit in the

COLUMN

Frozen blood sculpture to go on show

LONDON (R) — British art lovers with a strong stomach can this week ponder a head made from the frozen blood of its creator. The blood was shaped in a rubber mould of the head of 27-year-old artist March Quinn and is meant to express the precarious balance between life and death. The head comes in a special freezer and display cabinet. Quinn gave eight pints of his own blood in monthly intervals to provide the raw material for the sculpture, entitled Self. "The work is there, but if it were unfrozen it would just be a pool of blood. In the same way if somebody is alive they are there, but when they die they are not and you cannot say where they have gone," said Quinn, a former croupier. The piece is the latest addition to Britain's prestigious Saatchi collection of art and will go on public show in a central London gallery from Friday.

Village will not pay for false news

COLOMBO (R) — A village council in southern Sri Lanka has voted to stop paying licence fees for the radio and television sets it uses, saying they were broadcasting distorted and false news. Radio and television in Sri Lanka are state-owned. The motion was moved by opposition member P. Jayasinghe of the Haberdashers village council who said broadcast news was not impartial and facts were concealed to mislead the public. The island newspaper said Wednesday. The village council passed the motion by a majority of two votes with members of the ruling United National Party voting against it, the newspaper said.

BBC to broadcast on Russian Radio

LONDON (R) — The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) said it signed a landmark deal Wednesday to put World Service programmes on Russian Radio. Two 30-minute current affairs programmes from the BBC's Russian Service will be broadcast each weekend on Radio Russia from early in 1992 after years of jamming and hostility. "This is the first deal of its kind to be concluded between a Western broadcaster and a Russian Radio station," said World Service Managing Director John Tusa. "Coming less than five years since the Soviet Union stopped jamming the BBC, it marks a new high point for our strategy of winning airtime for BBC programmes on domestic radio frequencies." Programmes will be beamed to Moscow by satellite and rebroadcast simultaneously nationwide.

EC tightens up use of seat belts

LUXEMBOURG (R) — European Community (EC) transport ministers have agreed to force car passengers to sit in seats fitted with seat belts rather than those which are not, EC officials said. "Although they are not as far as forcing car owners and manufacturers to fit seat belts where they do not exist already, the move does force passengers to use the belts where they can. As a result a person being chauffeur-driven could be obliged to sit next to the chauffeur if there are belts in the front but not in the back and passengers could be obliged to sit in the front of a taxi rather than in the back. All EC member states currently insist that seatbelts are fitted in front seats, but Denmark and Germany have not until now made it obligatory to wear them. Five member states let car owners decide whether to have seat belts in the back or not."

Michelangelo's David to get glass screen

FLORENCE (R) — Michelangelo's legendary statue David, damaged last month in a hammer attack, will be protected by acoustic sensors and a 1.6 metre barrier of toughened glass, museum officials said Monday. Self-confessed failed artist Pietro Camata broke a toe of the four-metre (13 foot) statue when he attacked it in Florence's Galleria dell'Accademia. "The David is too beautiful," he said afterwards. "It has harmful effects — I envy Michelangelo for what he managed to make." The statue, carved from a single block of marble between 1501 and 1504, is being repaired and will soon undergo a thorough cleaning, the museum said. The glass screen will go round the plinth and will not impede a full view of the statue.